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General synod.

THE

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD,

OF THE

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH

IN

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NORTH AMERICA,

AT NEW-YORK, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1813.

ALBANY:

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1813.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North-America, convened in the City of New-York, in Special Meeting, on Tuesday the twenty-sixth day of October, in the Year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirteen. After adjourning from time to time, on Thursday the twenty-eighth instant, the following members appeared.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

From the Particular Synod of New-York.

1. *From the Classis of New-York.*

The Rev. Christian Bork and John Schureman.

Elders Messrs. Isaac L. Kip and Peter H. Wendover.

2. *From the Classis of Bergen.*

The Rev. James V. C. Romeyn.

Elders, Messrs. Martin I. Ryerson and Abraham Speer.

3. *From the Classis of Paramus.*

The Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge.

Elder, Mr. Dow Westervelt.

4. *From the Classis of New-Brunswick.*

The Rev. John L. Zabriskie and Peter Labagh.

Elders, Messrs. Peter Voorhees and Martin Schenck.

5. *From the Classis of Poughkeepsie.*

The Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook and Cornelius C. Cuyler.

Elder, Mr. David Carpenter.

From the Particular Synod of Albany.

1. *From the Classis of Albany.*

Elder, Mr. Jacob Switz.

2. *From the Classis of Ulster.*

The Rev. John Gosman and Henry Ostrander.

Elder, Mr. Peter Elmendorf, Jun.

3. *From the Classis of Rensselaer.*

4. *From the Classis of Montgomery.*

The Rev. John P. Spinner.

ARTICLE II.

A constitutional quorum appearing, and the President and Adsessor being absent, the Rev. James V. C. Romeyn was elected President pro tem.

A committee from the Board of Trustees of Queens College having appeared on the floor of Synod and a representation having been made of their desire of being early discharged from attendance on this body. Therefore

Resolved, That Synod immediately attend to the business intrusted to the committee of the Board of Trustees.

The Rev. Peter Labagh and Mr. Jacob R. Hardenbergh produced an act of the Board of Trustees of Queens College, appointing them to transact business with this body, they were received as such.

Resolved, That the Rev. Messrs. Eltinge and Westbrook and the Elder Peter H. Wendover, be a committee to confer with the above committee.

The committee from the Board of Trustees made the following communication.

To the Reverend the General Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church now convened in the City of New-York.

The Subscribers beg leave respectfully to represent to your reverend body, that they have been appointed a committee by the Board of Trustees of Queens College in New-Jersey: as well to make such representations and explanations to the Synod as they might think proper in relation to the Theological fund committed by the General Synod to the Guardianship of the Board of Trustees, as in conjunction with a Committee to be appointed by the General Synod to liquidate and settle the amount to be furnished, or appropriated on behalf of the General Synod, to the erection and completion of the Theological Hall, as will appear by a copy of their appointment herewith communicated.

The Committee in discharge of the duty assigned them, represent to the General Synod, that in pursuance of the agreement entered into between the General Synod and the Board of Trustees, subscription papers have been circulated by the Agents of the Board, throughout the State of New-York, and that the sum of twenty one thousand dollars, has been subscribed, of which sum, sixteen thousand dollars, has been paid to the Treasurer of the Board, and which is drawing an interest of seven per centum per annum. The Committee, with the Board

of Trustees, deeply lament, that a larger sum has not been subscribed for so desirable and important an object, and that hitherto so large a balance remains uncollected: The Committee however, as members of the board know, and they assure the General Synod, that nothing has been wanting on the part of the Board, not only to increase the subscriptions but to collect the sums subscribed; and they feel confident that the General Synod will unite with them and say that it is not an easy thing to collect a sum of twenty one thousand dollars on voluntary subscriptions: and that in the very nature of things a considerable sum never can be collected where the items are in so many hands to make up the aggregate amount.

The committee think it a duty they owe the board (in answer to a communication made by the Consistory of New-York to the Particular Synod, and by them referred to the General Synod, stating that the Board of Trustees had appropriated the sum of five thousand dollars, to the erection of the Theological Hall) to state, that the Consistory of New-York have been misinformed, as regards the fact contained in their representation; on the contrary not one cent of the theological fund has ever been appropriated, by the Board of Trustees, to the erection or completion of the Theological Hall, and the committee now request, that the Reverend Synod, will be pleased to appoint a committee on the part of the Synod, to confer with this committee who jointly may fix the sum to be furnished by the Synod for that object, agreeably to the original agreement entered into between the General Synod and the board.

Nothing would give greater pleasure to the Board of Trustees, than the establishment of the Theological School upon a permanent, and as it respects the funds, upon a more respectable basis; they are confident, that the prosperity of our Churches and the interest of true religion, greatly depend upon the success of the Theological School, in connection with which the literary institution of New-Brunswick is of primary importance: the Trustees have labored with zeal and activity for both—A number have made great sacrifices of time and money to promote their prosperity, and the board are satisfied nothing more is wanting to establish both upon a permanent and respectable footing, than unity and energy of action.—Our Churches have abundantly the ability, so to patronize those two institutions, as under the blessings of Divine Providence to answer all the good purposes the most sanguine friends anticipated.

PETER LABAGH, } Committee of the
J. R. HARDENBERGH, } Trustees of Queen's College.

New-York, October 27th, 1813.

ARTICLE III.

Advisory Members.

The Rev. Drs. Milledoler and Kuypers, and the Rev. Messrs. Steddiford, Matthews, Schoonmaker, Van Pelt, Rowan, Cornelison, Demarest and Overbagh, being present, were invited to sit as advisory members.

ARTICLE IV.

Reading of Minutes.

Resolved, That the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

ACTS OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Orders and Rules.

They were read.

ARTICLE II.

Standing Committees.

Resolved, That the standing committees appointed at the last ordinary meeting of the Synod be continued.

Resolved, That the Rev. John Schureman and the Elder Martin Schenck, be added to the committee on grievances.

ARTICLE III.

Communications.

A memorial was received from the Classis of Ulster.

Resolved, That the said memorial be submitted to the Rev. Messrs. Westbrook, Bork and Romeyn, and the Elders Messrs. Ryerson and Schenck, to report during the present session of Synod.

Adjourned to 4 o'clock, P. M. Closed with prayer.

4 o'Clock, P. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment—opened with prayer.

The Rev. James S. Cannon, a Primarius from the Classis of New-Brunswick, appeared and took his seat.

The Elder Primarius Cornelius Marselis, from the Classis of Bergen, appeared and took his seat.

The following Report of the Stated Clerk respecting the Annual Meetings of General Synod was read, and is as follows :

To the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in Session, in the City of New-York, 26th Oct. 1813.

The Stated Clerk, in conformity with a Resolution of the General Synod, making it his duty to report the decisions of the different Classes upon a proposed plan for Annual Meetings of the General Synod, begs leave to Report:

That he has received official notice upon this subject from all the Classes under the jurisdiction of Synod, except the Classes of Ulster and Montgomery.

That the Classes of New-York, New-Brunswick, Bergen, Poughkeepsie, Rensselaer and Albany, have ratified the proposed plan of meeting annually, and that the Classis of Paramus is of the opinion, "That the Annual Meeting of General Synod is contrary to the constitution."

That from the above it will appear that six of the nine Classes existing at the time when the resolution was passed, have agreed to the Annual Meetings of General Synod.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Stated Clerk.*

Whereas the constitutional number of Classes have reported in favor of the Annual Meetings of General Synod. Therefore,

Resolved, That the Meetings of this body be Annual.

Resolved, That the particular Synods be enjoined to appoint their delegates accordingly.

Resolved, That when this Synod adjourn it adjourn to meet in the city of New-York, on the first Tuesday of June, 1814.

The Rev. Dr. Livingston appeared in Synod, and was invited to sit as an advisory member.

The committee appointed to collect, arrange and publish the Rules and Church Orders since the year 1792, made a Report; which Report was committed to the Rev. John Schureman and the Elder Peter H. Wendover.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock A. M. to-morrow. Closed with prayer.

Friday, 10 o'clock, A. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment—opened with prayer.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES.

The committee on Synodical Minutes made the following Report, which was adopted.

That they have not received the minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany: That from an examination of the minutes of the Particular Synod of New-York, the following articles appear to demand the attention of General Synod, viz.

1. A request from the Particular Synod of New-York to the General Synod, "To propose, mature "and adopt as soon as practicable, some plan of a "Widow's Fund, which may be speedily opened for "subscription by Ministers and Congregations "throughout the bounds of the Reformed Dutch "Church." (See page 9 of the minutes of the Particular Synod of New-York, of May, 1813.)

2. A number of Resolutions of the Consistory of the Church in New-York in relation to the Professorate. (See pages 19—24.)

3. A Reference from the Church in Garden-street, in the city of New-York, in relation to subscription to formulas. (See pages 24—27.)

4. A request to General Synod to advise the Students of the Theological School to apply to the Classis within whose bounds they belong for examination and licensure—(see page 29.)

Your Committee would suggest to Synod, whether it would not be proper, to appoint a Committee, to arrange, mature and propose to General Synod at its next stated meeting, a plan for a widow's fund.

They recommend a reference of the second article in this report to the Committee who are appointed to confer with the Committee of the board of Trustees of Queen's College.

The third they would refer to a special committee. And in relation to the fourth, they would propose the following resolution.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Students of the Theological School, when they shall have completed their course of study, to apply for examination and licensure to the Classis within whose bounds they may have resided immediately before they commenced their Theological studies.

The above report is respectfully submitted.

JOHN P. SPINNER,
Chairman.

The Rev. Dr. Bradford, Rev. Messrs. Cuyler, Westbrook and Gosman, and Mr. Abraham Van Vechten were appointed a committee on the first article in the above report.

The Rev. Messrs. Eltinge and Schureman and the Elder M. Schenck were appointed a committee on the third article of the above report.

The committee on the Memorial of the Classis of Ulster made the following report which was made the order of the day for Monday afternoon.

The committee on the Memorial of the Classis of Ulster beg leave to report, that they have maturely considered its import, and do not hesitate to express their regret, that a subject which after it had given no small share of trouble to the Churches; which had been agitated before their various tribunals until it was finally decided in the General Synod of June 1812, and which they hoped was disposed of, should in any shape be revived.

Your Committee deeming it superfluous and improper to take up the matter complained of in the Memorial in the full extent therein inserted, and so travel over the same ground on which the competent tribunals have gone in their discussions and decisions, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, viz.

1. That this Synod always has been and still continues disposed to pay due regard to any complaints of grievances preferred by any individual or body of Members, when regularly brought before them, and will cheerfully grant such redress as the nature of the case or cases may demand.

2. That as the General Synod of June 1812 decided on the appeal of the Classis of Ulster from the decision of the particular Synod of Albany; this Synod believe their proceedings have been im-

partial and equitable and influenced by the purest motives, having nothing in view but the peace and welfare of the churches and justice to the parties concerned.

3. *Resolved,* That this Synod will ever consider it a duty to assert and maintain a sense of self respect, and will not silently suffer any unwarrantable aspersions derogatory to the dignity attached to the supreme tribunal of the Church to pass, without expressing their decided disapprobation; that they will discountenance a spirit of insubordination manifesting itself in any of its constituent parts, and will not be intimidated by any threats of secession from their connexion which may be uttered or published.

4. *Resolved,* That the said memorial is replete with expressions of marked acrimony and disrespect; that it contains imputations on the integrity of the General Synod as a body, and intemperate personal reflections on individuals, one of whom was and now is a member thereof; that it abounds with unwarrantable deductions from inadmissible premises; and keeping out of view the real state of the question which has given birth to the unhappy disputes between the Classis of Ulster and the Consitory of Kingston, the memorialists cavil at the manner in which the Synod have prosecuted the business.

5. *Resolved,* That in declaring their decision, this Synod do not believe that the Synod of June 1812, have been actuated by a desire to wound the feelings or lacerate the character of either of the parties concerned, and that from the nature of the case they

could not with propriety have expressed their opinion in terms more lenient and just.

6. *Resolved,* That the General Synod entertain the greatest solicitude for the welfare of the Churches comosping the Classis of Ulster, as well as for that of the Reverend Brethren ministring in those Churches; that they have always considered them as an important section of the Reformed Dutch Church; that they will ever be inclined to cherish their best interests; and that those churches and every individual thereunto belonging will find in this Synod a tribunal ready to grant any reasonable relief which may be asked—That the Synod have a right, in return for their protection, to obedience and submission, and confidently hope that the peace and prosperity of all concerned in the decisions complained of, will be promoted and established.

7. *Resolved,* That in consequence of the sentiments entertained by this Synod of the character of the said memorial it be and is hereby dismissed.

Ordered, That the Stated Clerk deposit it among the papers belonging to this Synod.

CORNELIUS D. WESTBROOK, *Chairman.*

The committee to whom the Selection of Psalms and Hymns made by Professor Livingston was submitted, made the following report which was accepted.

The committee to whom Professor Livingston was requested to submit his Selection of Psalms and Hymns, report,

That he has accomplished the work assigned him; that they have examined the same and judge it to be

a judicious and excellent selection; that they accordingly recommend it to the General Synod for their ultimate approbation, and suggest the propriety of having it immediately published and introduced in all our Churches.

PETER STEDDIFORD,
JAMES V. C. ROMEYN,
JOHN SCHUREMAN,
JAs. SPENCER CANNON.

Resolved, That the said selection be adopted.

Resolved, That the following shall be the manner in which the selection shall be introduced to the Churches.

Acts and proceedings of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, held at Albany, June, 1812.

A revision of the Psalms and Hymns now in use in the Dutch Church, having been requested and referred to the General Synod, by the Particular Synod of New-York; and it being desirable that our selection of Psalms and Hymns should be improved and enlarged:

Resolved, That the Synod request the Rev. Doctor Livingston to make a selection of Psalms and Hymns agreeably to the views expressed upon this subject: and they appoint the Rev. James V. C. Romeyn, James S. Cannon, Peter Steddiford and John Schureman, a committee to whom Dr. Livingston will submit the selection: but for the greater security in a work of such importance, it is resolved, that after it be adopted by the committee, it shall

be reported to the General Synod and obtain their ultimate approbation before it be published.

Acts and proceedings of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, held at an extraordinary session at New-York, October, 1813.

The committee to whom Professor Livingston was requested to submit his selection of Psalms and Hymns, Reported, That he had accomplished the work assigned him; that they have examined the same, and judge it to be a judicious and excellent selection; that they accordingly recommend it to the General Synod for their ultimate approbation, and suggest the propriety of having it immediately published and introduced into all our Churches.

The General Synod having received the report of the committee appointed upon the subject of the Psalms and Hymns, and having inspected the selection made by the Rev. Professor Livingston, agreeably to the request of the General Synod in their last session, do express their high satisfaction and decided approbation of the same. It is therefore resolved, That this selection be forthwith published and introduced into public worship in all our Churches. And the General Synod recommend the same to all families and individuals within their communion, to be adopted instead of the book which has hitherto been in use. It is further resolved, that the Catechism, Articles of Faith, and what has formerly been published with the book of Psalms and Hymns, be also added to the new edition.

The General Synod resolved, That Professor Livingston be requested to cause a neat and correct

edition of the Psalms and Hymns now adopted to be made as soon as possible: and that the copy right of the book be secured for the express and sole benefit of such students as may attend our theological lectures, and may need pecuniary assistance. Resolved further, That for the beneficial purpose last mentioned, not less than the sum of six cents be imposed upon every book of Psalms and Hymns that shall be printed, and that no printer be allowed the right of publishing any edition of the same, in any form whatever, unless he first pays or secures the payment of the sum required upon each book in his whole edition.

Resolved, That for the ability displayed in the revision of Psalms and Hymns in use in our Churches and for the labor and diligence, with which that business has been finally accomplished, Professor Livingston is entitled to the gratitude and affectionate remembrance of the members of the Dutch Church, and all the friends of Zion; and that this Synod entertain, and will continue to entertain, a high sense of the faithful and affectionate labors of their aged Brother for the advancement of the interests of our Church; and that they will ever pray that when he shall be gathered with his fathers, he may join in the song of Moses and the Lamb.

Whereas the General Synod repose the greatest confidence in the Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church in the City of New York, both as it respects their willingness to promote the welfare of the Church and further the interests of the Theological Seminary: Therefore,

Resolved, That the copy right of the Book of Psalms and Hymns be vested in the Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church in the City of New York, in trust for the General Synod.

Resolved, That the said Consistory be directed to receive from every Printer who shall be permitted to publish an Edition not less than six cents for every copy.

Resolved, That the money arising from this source be appropriated to the support of indigent students in our Theological Seminary.

Resolved, That the said monies shall be held by the Consistory of New York, subject to the draft of the special treasurer of General Synod, to be appropriated according to the design above mentioned.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Livingston be requested to superintend the publication of the first Edition of the New Psalm Book, and when published, that he affix his name thereto.

Resolved, That the Rev. Messrs. Schureman and Cuyler be a committee to confer with the Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church in New York in relation to the trust intended to be reposed in them by the above resolutions.

Adjourned to 4 o'clock, P. M. Closed with prayer.

4 *o'clock, P. M.*

Synod met pursuant to adjournment. Opened with prayer.

The Rev. Dr. A. M'Leod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church appeared in Synod and was invited to sit as an advisory member.

The following motion was made and carried.

Whereas, a certain pamphlet has been published and circulated throughout our Churches by the Classis of Ulster, said to criminate not only individual characters, but also the characters of both the Particular Synod of Albany, and this General Synod,—Therefore,

Resolved, That for the protection of public character said pamphlet be referred to the committee on the Ulster memorial, to report on Monday next.

The committee appointed to confer with a committee of the Board of Trustees of Queen's College made a report. *Ordered*, that the report be taken up by paragraphs. After some progress the farther consideration of the report was postponed till tomorrow morning.

The Delegates appointed to attend a meeting of the German Reformed Synod of Pennsylvania made the following report, which was accepted.

The Subscribers being a majority of the committee appointed by the last General Synod to attend the Synod of the German Reformed Churches held in Frederick-town in May last, beg leave to report.

That in obedience to the resolution of this Synod they attended the German Synod, and presented to that Reverend Body the minutes of the General Synod, and further communicated to them the special object of their mission by tendering the friendly regard of this body for their German Brethren, and by offering to conduct the correspondence between the two Churches upon a more agreeable and useful plan than the one hitherto pursued, viz. by the ap-

pointment of corresponding members. Your committee met with a friendly reception and were invited to a seat in their body, and after conferring with a committee appointed for the purpose, they were gratified with the unanimous resolution of the German Synod, agreeing to the proposition and appointing two of their members to attend the next meeting of this General Synod to be held in New-Brunswick in September last, all which will appear from a copy of their minutes herewith communicated.

Your committtee held considerable intercourse with the ministers of the German Reformed Churches, and were pleased to receive their friendly attentions and to hear their expressions of respect and esteem for the reformed Dutch Church.

Your committee having no particular instructions to propose or arrange any plan of further intercourse or connection with the German Churches, returned.

Signed, JAs. S. CANNON,
PETER LABAGH.

Resolved, That the Rev. C. Bork be requested to translate the letter from the German Reformed Church of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That the Delegates be allowed one hundred dollars for their expences in attending the German Reformed Synod of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That the President give an order on the Questor of Synod for the above sum.

The committee on the subject of Missions made the following Report.

The committee on Missions submit the following Report :—

That they have received no communications from the stated committee of Missions, and consequently are unable to furnish this body with any detailed account of Missionary labors since their last meeting.

They wish however to call the attention of this body to a representation which the Classis of New-Brunswick have directed their delegates to communicate to the General Synod: it respects the destitute state of some of our congregations on the Delaware River, within the jurisdiction of the Classis of New-Brunswick. The Classis applied sometime since to the stated committee of Missions to have the privilege to appropriate some of the money collected within their bounds for missionary purposes, to employ a person to visit the Churches and settlements on the Delaware. These Churches are in a destitute state, and require more service than what the Classis of New-Brunswick can afford them. If a suitable character could be obtained to visit those societies, the churches above mentioned might soon be placed in such a situation as to support at least one Minister, and new Churches be organized. The stated committee of Missions considered themselves as unauthorised to grant the request of the Classis of New-Brunswick. Your committee would suggest the propriety of granting the Classis their request, as in all probability, it would promote the general interests of the Church.

JOHN L. ZABRISKIE.

Upon which it was resolved,

That it would be improper to take the Missionary business out of the hands of the committee of Missions.

Resolved, That the committee of Missions be requested to use the money collected for Missionary purposes within such parts of the Church as may be most destitute until our ordinary Missionary ground be again open to us.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock A. M. to-morrow. Closed with prayer.

Saturday Morning, 10 *o'clock A. M.*

Synod met pursuant to adjournment—opened with prayer.

The consideration of the report of the committee appointed to confer with the committee of the Trustees of Queen's College was resumed.

After full discussion, the report was adopted, and is as follows.

The committee appointed to confer with the committee of the Board of Trustees of Queen's College, beg leave to submit the following report, viz.

Your committee upon examining the minutes of the extra Synod of A. D. 1807, at Haerlem, find that by solemn contract General Synod stand pledged to the Board of Trustees of Queen's College to defray the expenses for the building of a Theological Hall, by collections to be taken up in the congregations of the state of New-York, and in case of failure from that source, by an appropriation of so much of the principal of the Theological fund as may be adequate ; which appropriation is to be made by the

Board of Trustees of Queen's College. Your committee upon examining official extracts from the Minutes of the Board of Trustees, also find that the sum of $21,000, has been subscribed for the Theological fund, of which $16,192 $\frac{57}{100}$ have been collected, of which latter sum $10,400 have been put to interest on bond and mortgage; and that for the sum of $5,772 $\frac{57}{100}$ interest has been paid by the literary to the Theological Institution from its reception.

Your Committee do therefore recommend for the adoption of Synod the following resolutions viz:

Resolved, 1st. That the sum of three thousand dollars be appropriated for defraying the expences of the Theological Hall.

Resolved, 2ndly. That the monies already obtained by collections in the State of New York be first appropriated, and that the deficiency be paid out of the Theological fund.

Thirdly. Whereas the Trustees of Queen's College have allowed interest to the General Synod for the use of the sum of $5,772 $\frac{57}{100}$ of the Theological fund from the time of its reception, and justice demands that the General Synod allow interest to the Board of Trustees for the use of two thirds of the sum appropriated, from the time of the inclosure of said building: Therefore, Resolved; That interest for $2,000, be allowed for four years by the Theological to the literary fund.

Your Committee cannot but applaud the watchfulness, zeal and engagedness of the Board of trustees for the prosperity of both the literary and the

Theological Institutions, and calculate on their perseverance in completing subscriptions and collections through the State of New York agreeably to the original contract, and they cannot but hope that corresponding exertions on the part of our Churches with the blessing of God will ensure success, and therefore suggest the propriety of General Synod's recommending to their Churches the earnest prosecution of our adopted measures on their part.

All which is submitted.

Signed, WILHELMUS ELTINGE, *Chairman.*

The special Treasurer of General Synod made the following report which was adopted, viz:

Dr. General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America in Account Current with Isaac L. Kip, Special Treasurer, Cr.

1813				Cr.	
April 24,	By	Cash rec'd. pr. John I. Labagh collected in New York - - - - -		$308	92
26,	By	do.	Doct. Bradford, Albany	141	08
27,	By	do.	Rev. J. V. C. Romeyn, Hackensack and Schraalenburgh, - - -	17	
May 6,	By	do.	Wilhelmus Eltinge, Paramus,	10	
June 17,	By	do.	Jacob Sickles, Kinderhook,	53	50
Oct. 1,	By	do.	C. C. Cuyler, Poughkeepsie,	25	
6,	By	do.	G. R. Livingston, Coxsackie,	38	
7,	By	do.	Mr. P. H. Wendover, Greenwich,	68	69
27,	By	do.	Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, Clarkstown, - - - - - - - - - - - -	4	10
"	By	do.	Rev. John Schureman Questor of New Brunswick Classis,	56	11
				$722	40

1813	Dr.		
June 6,	To Cash paid Messrs. Bradford and Cuyler a draft for purchasing books for Theological Library,	$100	
	To Cash paid Dr. Bradford a draft for a book for recording the proceedings of Board of Superintendants of the Theological Hall.	2	102
	Balance due Gen. Synod,		$620 48

Errors excepted. 27*th Oct.* 1813. *ISAAC L. KIP, Sp. Treas.*

Adjourned to 10 o'clock, A. M. on Monday. Closed with prayer.

Monday, 1*st November,* 10 *o'clock A. M.*

Synod met pursuant to adjournment—opened with prayer.

A quorum not being present, adjourned to half past 3 o'clock P. M. Closed with prayer.

Half past 3 *o'clock, P. M.*

Synod met pursuant to adjournment—opened with prayer.

The Rev. Matthew L. R. Perine, of the Presbyterian church, was invited to sit as an advisory member.

The order of the day on the report of the committee on the memorial of the Classis of Ulster was called up.

Resolved, That it be taken up by paragraphs.

Resolved, That the Rev. Messrs. Ostrander and Gosman, and the Elder Elmendorf, be excluded from voting on the above report, on account of their being interested in the subject.

After mature deliberation, Synod adopted the report of the committee recorded in the minutes of Friday morning.

Adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. Closed with prayer.

Tuesday Morning, 10 *o'clock.*

Synod met pursuant to adjournment—opened with prayer.

The Rev. Robert B. E. McLeod, of the Associate Reformed Church, appearing in Synod, was invited to sit as an advisory member.

The committee to whom was submitted a pamphlet containing a report of the Rev. Moses Frælígh, to the Classis of Ulster, made the following report:

The committee to whom was referred a pamphlet containing a report of the Rev. Moses Frælígh to the Classis of Ulster, touching the proceedings and decisions of the Particular and General Synods of June, 1813, beg leave to report:

That from the attention they have paid to the said report, it appears that the Classis of Ulster appointed the Rev. Moses Frælígh their representative to the Particular and General Synods above mentioned: that after his return, Mr. Frælígh reported the proceedings in the case contested between the Classis of Ulster, and the consistory of Kingston, which report the Classis of Ulster ordered to be printed, and which accordingly was printed for circulation.

Your committee are fully convinced that said Classis had a right to appoint a person as their representative to act on their behalf: That it was inherent in said appointment to report to the body that constituted him; and that, reasoning in the abstract, the Classis was justifiable in circulating such report

for the information of the Churches. But your committee are sorry to observe that instead of a dispassionate and respectful detail of facts, instead of being indicative of a spirit of subordination to the acts and proceedings of the higher judicatories of the Church, it has a mischievous tendency, calculated to cast an odium on the Synods, to awaken a spirit of disaffection, distrust and opposition to the constituted authorities, as well as by wanton attacks on individuals to injure their reputation. Whilst your committee feel persuaded that any acts or expressions of the General Synod, conceived to bear hard on the conduct of the Classis of Ulster, have not been intended to affect the reputation of, or to withhold justice from that body or any members thereof, and whilst they pretend not to judge of the motives which induced the publication of such a report, they recommend the adoption of the following resolution, viz.

Resolved, That this Synod decidedly disapprove of the contents of said Pamphlet, as hostile to the peace and unity of the Church, as manifestly betraying a spirit of insubordination and containing unchristian and illiberal aspersions on the Synods as well as on individuals. All which is humbly submitted.

Signed in behalf of the Committee.

CORNELIUS D. WESTBROOK, *Chairman.*

The above report was adopted.

Resolved, That a Pastoral Letter be written to the Ministers and Churches composing the Classis of Ulster.

Resolved, That the Rev. Messrs. Zabriskie, Can-

non and Schureman be a Committee to prepare said Letter.

The Rev. Christian Bork laid on the table of Synod the following translation of the communication of the German Reformed Synod of Pennsylvania which was ordered to be inserted on the Minutes.

Frederick Town, May the 17th, 1813.

Proceedings of the Committees of the Rev. Synod respecting the two Delegates of the Rev. Synod of the State of New York.

1. Information was given to the Rev. Synod, that two Delegates from the Rev. Synod of the State of New York were present who were furnished with credentials, and wished to be admitted to a seat with the Synod in Frederick Town in Maryland: In consequence of which,

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to give a friendly invitation to the Delegates to sit with our Synod and deliver their instructions.

2. The Committee together with the Delegates appearing in Synod, their places were assigned them. And upon being asked by the Secretary of Synod, the Rev. Mr. Labagh, after having read the Synodical Minutes which the Delegates brought with them, gave information, that the object of the Low Dutch Synod is that a brotherly interchange of Synodical acts and proceedings and an uninterrupted union of sentiments might be restored. Upon which, Resolved, That another Committee of Ministers and Elders be appointed for the purpose of enquiring more particularly of both the Rev. Delegates, Labagh and Cannon, the special object of their Delegation.

3. The Committee appointed to confer with both the Delegates Messrs. Labagh and Cannon convened for the purpose on Monday evening in the parsonage house: Where,

1. It was *Resolved,* That nothing could be done on the subject till both the above delegated gentlemen were present.

2. Upon a suitable and becoming invitation by a deputed committee, both the delegated gentlemen appeared.

3. The question proposed in the English Language was;—In what manner an intercourse might be practicable? The answer was, The Synod gave us no instructions as to the plan in which this intercourse may be practicable, they give it entirely to the discretion of the German Reformed Synod. It is therefore

4. The opinion of the committee, that on the part of our Synod, members be appointed to sit with the Synod of New York, or with the Low Dutch Synod in September 1813: Therefore *Resolved,*

5. That Mr. Samuel Helffenstein and Mr. Philip Gloninger shall attend the Synod of New York, or particularly, the Synod to be held in Brunswick in September 1813. This *Resolution* of the committee was unanimously approved of and accepted by the Synod and subscribed with the names of the Committee and confirmed with the Synodical Seal. Frederick-town in Maryland, May the 18th, 1813.

CHRISTIAN L. BECKER, D. D.

(L. S.) *President.*

WILLIAM HENDEL, *Scriba, P. T.*

Resolved, That the above communication be referred to the committee on correspondence.

Resolved, That an enquiry be made whether the Classes have attended to the annual collections for the support of the Theological School according to the injunction of this body in June 1812.

Upon inquiry it appeared that the Classes of New-York, Bergen, New-Brunswick, Poughkeepsie, Albany, Rensselaer, and Montgomery have ordered collections to be taken, and the Classes of Paramus and Ulster have not ordered them.

Resolved, That it be enjoined on the several congregations under our jurisdiction to make collections for the support of the Professor and indigent students, and the procuring a Theological library, without delay.

Resolved, That it be enjoined on the Classes under our jurisdiction to enquire every year of the respective Consistories whether they have taken their collections according to the injunctions of Synod.

Adjourned to 4 o'clock P. M.

Closed with prayer.

4 o'clock P. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment. Opened with prayer.

The committee appointed to confer with the Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church in New-York reported, that they have conferred with said Consistory, who have accepted the trust reposed in them by the General Synod in relation to the copy-right of the Psalm Book, which acceptance is communicated in the following act of Consistory.

In Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church in New-York, 1st. November, 1813.

Resolved, That the Consistory will cheerfully undertake the charge reposed in them by the Reverend General Synod. *Extract from the Minutes.*

J. B. VROOM, *Clerk pro tem.*

ARTICLE IV.

Correspondence.

The committee on correspondence made the following report, which was adopted.

The committee on correspondence beg leave to submit the following report, viz.

Your committee upon examining the extract of the minutes of the German Synod, find that the German Synod have expressed a willingness to continue a friendly correspondence with this Synod through a mutual interchange of Synodical minutes, and the attendance of two corresponding members. Your committtee therefore recommend,

1. That the minutes of this session be forwarded to the German Synod.

2. That the Rev. Jacob Brodhead and Peter Labagh, be appointed the corresponding delegates to the German Synod of A. D. 1814, to meet at Wommelsdorf, in the state of Pennsylvania.

WILHELMUS ELTINGE, *Chairman.*

The committee appointed on the third article of the report of the committee on Synodical minutes, made the following report, which was accepted.

The committee on the subject of the subscription of the Articles of Union, submit the following Report, viz.

Your committee are of opinion that the subscription required in some Classes to the Articles of Union agreed upon by the Assembly of Ministers and Elders convened in New-York, in the month of October, 1771, ought to cease.

1. Because these articles have reference to, and are made dependent upon rules afterwards to be adopted, and are therefore superceded by the formation of the constitution.

2. Because they are in their nature only temporary, and adapted to the particular exigency for which they were composed, and were never intended to be permanent regulations of the Church: which appears from this circumstance, among others; that some of these articles do not quadrate with the rules adopted for the government of any Protestant Church, especially with those of the Reformed Dutch Church. All which is submitted.

WILHELMUS ELTINGE, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the consideration of the above report be postponed till the next meeting of the General Synod.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Kuypers be requested to translate the Articles of Union, and present them to General Synod, at their next meeting.

ARTICLE V.

Synodical Reports on the State of Religion.

The committee on the State of Religion made the following Report, which was adopted.

The committee on the state of religion report: That in consequence of the minutes of the Particular

Synod of Albany not having come to hand, they are not able to make any satisfactory representation on this subject.

H. OSTRANDER, *Chairman.*

The committee to whom was referred the report of the Stated Clerk on the subject of collecting, arranging and publishing the Rules and Church Orders since the year 1792, made the following report, which was adopted.

The committee to whom was referred the report of the Stated Clerk on the subject of collecting, arranging and publishing all the Rules and Church Orders which have been adopted since the year 1792, report:

That after having examined the Orders and Rules which the Stated Clerk has collected and transcribed, they do fully concur with him in opinion that it is not advisable to have the same published in a separate volume, but recommend to Synod, that they authorize the Stated Clerk, in whose possession the minutes of General Synod are, to make a selection of such Orders and Rules as may be deemed of the greatest importance, but are probably not as generally known as could be wished; and after submitting the same to the next General Synod, cause so much as shall be approved, to be published as an appendix to the minutes of the next General Synod.

JNO. SCHUREMAN,
PETER H. WENDOVER.

ARTICLE VI.

Synodical Appeals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE VII.

Synodical References.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE VIII.

Grievances.

The Committee on Grievances made the following Report, which was adopted.

The Committee on Grievances report that they find nothing on the subject of their commission requiring the attention of this Synod.

JOHN GOSMAN, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE IX.

Church Government.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE X.

Doctrines and Morals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XI.

Customs and Usages.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XII.

Schools and Christian Education.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIII.

Queen's College.

The committee to whom was referred the memorial from the consistory of New-York, having called the attention of Synod to only one part of the said memorial, viz. the appropriation made for the build-

ing of the Theological Hall, *Resolved*, therefore, That the remainder of said memorial be referred to the committee on the Professorate.

ARTICLE XIV.

Professorate.

The committee on the Professorate made the following Report, which was adopted.

The committee on the Professorate beg leave to report:

That they have cause of congratulating the General Synod on the hope of beholding our destitute Churches in some measure supplied with a respectable ministry. Professor Livingston had under his care in the month of April last, eight students, two of whom have since been examined, and are licensed as candidates for the ministry, viz. Messrs. Bronk and Wynkoop. Your committee have no certain information how many students will be added to the remaining six; but have reason to believe the number will be considerably augmented.

Your committee find on the minutes of the Board of Superintendants, that that board have organized in September, 1812; that they have had several meetings, and have faithfully attended to the duties assigned them.

With heartfelt regret the committee inform Synod of the mournful dispensation of Providence in removing by death, the Rev. John M. Van Harlingen, Professor of Hebrew and Teacher of Ecclesiastical History. In this event the Institution has sustained a serious deprivation. Trusting in the Great Head of the Church, with whom is the residue of the Spir-

it, that when our Elijahs are taken away, their mantles will drop, and Elishas will succeed, the committee confidently hope the Church will not be left without resource.

Your committee further remark with sorrow, that the funds of the Theological Institution are still inadequate to the important ends contemplated in the plan of General Synod; the state of the funds having been communicated already at this session, it is deemed superfluous to repeat it: and as the trustees of Queen's College are willing to employ agents to collect monies in any part of the Church, where threre is a prospect of success, it is recommended that the Synod give information to the board on this subject.

Whereas the students according to the plan agreed upon in relation to the Theological Institution, are required to submit to an examination before the board of superintendants, previous to their obtaining a professional certificate for examination and licensure, the committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, viz.

1. *Resolved,* That every student in the Reformed Dutch Church, shall previous to his commencing the study of theology, make himself known as such to the board of superintendants, and shall be considered under the care of said board.

2. *Resolved,* That every student of divinity under whomsoever he may have studied, shall previous to his examination by the Professor, apply for the said purpose to the board of superintendants before he is examined and licensed.

They also find that a respectable library has been collected in Queen's College; and that some provision has been made for indigent students of divinity. Your committee are therefore of opinion that in the present state of things, the removal of the Theological School elsewhere would be improper and inexpedient.

All which is respectfully submitted.

J. V. C. ROMEYN, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE XV.

Students in Theology.

Whereas it has been represented, that the act of indulgence allowing particular individuals, for special reasons, the liberty of prosecuting their Theological studies in seminaries not under the patronage or care of the Reformed Dutch Church has been construed into a general license for all: Therefore,

Resolved, That it be hereafter required of all those who design to apply for a license to preach the gospel in the Reformed Dutch Church, to prosecute their studies in the institution under the care of this Church, which is now, as we hope, in successful operation, unless a special act of indulgence shall be obtained from Synod to the contrary.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock A. M. to-morrow. Closed with prayer.

Wednesday, 9 o'clock A. M.

Synod met pursuant to adjournment. Opened with prayer.

ARTICLE XVI.

Church Visitation.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVII.

Prevailing Sins.

See report of committee on the state of religion.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Missions.

See report of committee on Missions.

ARTICLE XIX.

See report of committee on synodical minutes.

ARTICLE XX.

Particularia.

Resolved, That the Trustees of Queen's College be instructed to appoint agents for the purpose of taking collections for the Theological fund within the bounds of the Classis of Ulster and such parts of the Classis of New York, Long Island and Poughkeepsie as have not been heretofore applied to for that purpose.

ARTICLE XXI.

Questorate.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXII.

Pastoral Letter.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to prepare a Pastoral Letter to the Ministers and Churches of the Classis of Ulster, transmit a copy of the Let-

ter when prepared to the stated Clerk, who shall insert it in its proper place in the minutes before they are recorded or printed.

Resolved, That the committee publish a sufficient number of copies of said Letter at the expence of Synod.

Resolved, That the Rev. Messrs. Westbrook and Cuyler be a committee to present the Letter to said Ministers and Churches.

THE General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America convened at New-York, to the Ministers and Congregations of the Classis of Ulster, sendeth greeting:

"*Grace, Mercy and Peace be multiplied unto you.*"

Circumstances well known to you Brethren, have in the judgment of General Synod, rendered it expedient to address a Pastoral Letter to you in particular—The peace of your societies is likely to be disturbed and threats have been made to dissolve the connexion which has long happily subsisted between you and the Reformed Dutch Churches in this country—Whilst General Synod hope that such threats, which too frequently are the offspring of inconsideration and intemperate passion, will not be carried into execution to your serious injury, they feel impelled by a sense of duty, and by the regard which they have entertained for you, to convey to you some remarks which may serve to exhibit their own acts and proceedings towards the Classis of Ulster, in a favourable light, and such exhortations and advices, as in the exercise of that power with

which the Lord Jesus Christ has invested them, they are bound to give—Your Peace and Prosperity Brethren are dear to General Synod—Your connexion with us we have hitherto considered to be a blessing and an honor, and we now fervently pray, that such a spirit of moderation may be discovered both by us and you, as to shew, that we are members of the same body and that " we prefer Jerusalem above our chief Joy."—

In expressing their sentiments to you, brethren, General Synod are under the necessity of distinguishing between the Reverend Classis of Ulster and the respectable Churches under the care of that Classis—The Classis is the judicature on whose proceedings in relation to a certain contract both the Particular Synod of Albany and the General Synod have decided—The Classis is the judicature by whose order a pamphlet purporting to be a report of the Reverend M. Freligh, has been printed and circulated and by whom a memorial has been laid before this Synod—Whilst, therefore, a difference of opinion subsists between the General Synod and the Classis, the Synod think it proper to declare, that as far as is known to them, the Consistories and Congregations under the care of that Classis, and the Reverend H. Polhemus, who has lately settled in one of those Congregations, have in all respects acted so as to command their approbation and to merit their high esteem—Keeping then the latter for a moment out of view, the General Synod would in the first place address themselves to the former—

1. *Reverend Brethren of the Classis of Ulster.*

Your memorial brought before this Synod and a Pamphlet published by your order, have been read and considered—The acts of Synod with respect to these two productions you will find in their printed minutes—In those acts, you will perceive that much forbearance has been exercised by Synod, when you reflect that the memorial presented by you, is replete with observations calculated to insult the highest judicature of the Church, and to misrepresent their motives and proceedings—Never before has a paper so unbecoming in its language, so uncharitable in the sentiments it contained, and so strongly marked with the spirit of insubordination, been laid before the General Synod by a Classis—We hope that this paper has been drawn up and approved by you in haste—We would wish to believe, that it does not express the deliberate sentiments of your minds.—As it is, we owe to the honor of religion, and to ourselves, to declare our disapprobation of it!—And we were pleased to find that your own agent, the Rev. Henry Ostrander, did not hesitate to acknowledge that the language used in certain parts of your memorial, was such as he could not approve.

It also afforded us no little satisfaction to hear your agent declare, that he considered any decision of General Synod on the validity or invalidity of the contract entered into by the Rev. Mr. Gosman of the one part and the Dutch Petitioners of the other part, to be a matter of very inferior moment—Now we consider the decision of the Particular Synod of Alba-

ny in relation to the "contract," to be that from which your commissioners appealed to our judgment in 1812, and that which as it formed the principal subject of dispute, we were called very particularly to investigate and decide upon—We accordingly did decide in favour of the particular Synod, and have, after hearing the remarks of your agent, and re-considering the matter, unanimously approved of what was done in our session at Albany.

But it appears, brethren, that you consider the resolutions of General Synod in June 1812, as going to confirm all the decisions of the Particular Synod of Albany, which related to the "reasons of the appeal" made to that Synod by the Consistory of Kingston. On this subject there has been some misunderstanding of the intentions and acts of this Synod. Your agent has heard our sentiments fully stated—and we are now prepared to say, that if there be a want of precision in the language in which our resolutions of 1812 are expressed, we had it not in view to declare by those resolutions that "all the reasons of appeal" were either relevant or substantiated by evidence—It was far from our intentions to treat the Classis of Ulster with disrespect, or to permit any member of it to be insulted in our presence —It was not our design to affirm that your Classis were inferior in piety, prudence and faithfulness to the Classis of Poughkeepsie, or any other Classis in our communion. But whilst we in general terms disapproved of the undue warmth of passion evinced by the parties concerned in the unhappy differences at Kingston, and judged that some of the de-

cisions of the Particular Synod of Albany were not supported by sufficient testimony, we Resolved (by confirming the decision of Particular Synod on the subject matter of the appeal made to them) that your decision with regard to the validity of the "contract" was not correct, and that (in consequence of all that irritation and prejudice which existed at Kingston) the spiritual interests of that congregation rendered a separation from you expedient. Now, are these resolutions expressed in language as mild as the nature of the subjects to which they relate will admit, so strongly marked with injustice and cruelty towards the Classis of Ulster as to justify them in bringing forward a memorial very disrespectful in its language, in arraigning the Synods before the bar of the public, and in manifesting a disposition remote from subordination, and hostile to the peace and prosperity of the Church?—If whenever General Synod shall reverse the judgment of a Classis or a Particular Synod, or censure any improprieties which they may discover in the proceedings of inferior judicatures, such strong and violent measures as those which you have adopted, shall be pursued, it may be safely predicted that our form of Ecclesiastical Government, which we believe to be "the law of God's House," will soon be destroyed. But General Synod hope that upon a more serious and dispassionate consideration of their acts and of the contents of your Memorial, you will become sensible of your departure from that order which lies at the foundation of the existence and welfare of the Church of Christ—As

members of a judicature subordinate to us, and as Ministers of the gospel of peace and love, we expect from you that deference and obedience to which we are entitled under our excellent constitution, and with which we cannot dispense. Let this our expectation, reverend brethren, founded upon your piety, your zeal for the promotion of the divine Glory, and your known attachment to the Reformed Dutch Church, not be disappointed—Should you be aggrieved by any of our acts, the General Synod, composed as it will hereafter be of other delegates from the Particular Synods, will, on your respectful representation of facts, cheerfully hear your complaints and redress your grievances. Meantime let your love of order be displayed and your moderation be known unto all men—pray for the prosperity of Zion, and for your brethren and companion's sake, say "peace be within her"—may the Great Head of the Church endow you richly with the spirit of wisdom, love and peace, and render you a blessing to the church with which you stand closely connected—*Amen.*

2. The General Synod would now address themselves particularly to the Consistories and Congregations under the care of the Classis of Ulster.

BRETHREN,

An appeal taken from the decision of the Particular Synod of Albany by the Commissioners of the Classis of Ulster to this Synod, gave birth to certain resolutions, which you will find in our printed minutes of 1812. These resolutions, Synod

lament to find, have induced the Classis of Ulster to address them in a memorial, containing sentiments and written in language which they are constrained by a sense of duty to disapprove. But whilst a difference of opinion exists between the highest judicature of your church and the Classis of Ulster, we are happy to state, Brethren, that your conduct hitherto has afforded us entire satisfaction—We rejoice to hear that you still continue attached to the doctrines of grace, to the public ordinances of religion, and to that constitution which your fathers loved and which we trust will always be dear to you—and our joy will be much increased, whenever it shall please God to bless you with copious influences of his Holy Spirit, to revive his work with power in the midst of you, to supply your vacant churches with faithful Pastors and to add unto you many " of such as shall be saved." For the attainment of these blessings of the highest value, unite your prayers and exertions—let not your silent sabbaths reproach you with lukewarmness in the cause of Christ Jesus our Lord, and with indifference to the salvation of precious souls. Let not the servants of Jesus, who labour among you, have reason to exclaim, " who hath believed our report and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed ?" But vigorously endeavour to procure the regular dispensation of the word and ordinances, in your destitute societies, and gladly receive the grace of God—For he saith, " I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of Salvation have I succoured thee ; Behold now is the accepted time ;

Behold now is the day of salvation!"—1 Cor. vi. 1, 2.

It will always afford the General Synod much pleasure, beloved brethren, to hear that you love your ministers, and that you obey them who are over you in the Lord—but let your affection for your pastors be so well regulated, as never to lead you to sin against God by departing from the form of sound words, and by encouraging divisions and schisms in the church—Consider yourselves as parts of a whole, and fulfil the solemn obligation under which you are "to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Now we beseech you brethren by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment—follow after the things which make for peace—but if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

We have thought proper to send to you our brethren, the Reverend Cornelius C. Cuyler and the Reverend Cornelius D. Westbrook with this letter and the minutes of this session They will express to you our fervent desires for your prosperity, and inform you of our proceedings in relation to the memorial and pamphlet of the Classis of Ulster. We trust you will receive them with that respect which is due to the Commissioners of the General Synod, and pray that they may find you increasing in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus

Christ, walking in the fear of God and approving things that are excellent.

[Signed] *By order of Synod,*
JAMES S. CANNON, *Pres't.*

CORNELIUS C. CUYLER, } *Clerks.*
ISAAC L. KIP.

The door-keeper presented his accounts for attendance, expences of express to New Jersey, &c. amounting to twenty-five dollars and fifty-six cents.

Resolved,

That the President give an order for the above account on the Questor of Synod.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Resumption and Close.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the stated Clerk publish and destribute among the Churches, five hundred copies of the Minutes of this Synod, duly authenticated.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Adjournment.

Synod adjourned to meet in the City of New York on the first Tuesday of June, A. D. 1814.

JAS. S. CANNON, *President.*
CORNS. C. CUYLER, } *Clerks.*
ISAAC L. KIP,

Official copy from the original minutes.
JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Stated Clerk.*

THE

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD,

OF THE

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH,

IN

NORTH AMERICA,

AT NEW-YORK, JUNE, 1814.

ALBANY:

PRINTED BY RYER SCHERMERHORN,

Corner of Market and Columbia Streets

1814.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, convened in the city of New-York, on Tuesday the seventh day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fourteen. The session continued from the seventh day of June to the afternoon of Wednesday the fifteenth day of June.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Opening of the Synod.

The president and adsessor of the last General Synod being absent, the Synod was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. John Bassett, the oldest minister present.

ARTICLE II.

Members Present.

From the Particular Synod of New-York.

1. *From the Classis of New-York.*

The Rev. Selah S. Woodhull, Stephen N. Rowan, and Alexander Gunn.

Elders, Messrs. James Striker, Guysbert B. Vroom, and Thomas Storm.

2. *From the Classis of Long Island.*

The Rev. Jacob Schoonmaker, David S. Bogart, and Dr. John Bassett.*

Elders, Messrs. Rem. Hageman, Elias Hubbard, and Peter Duryea.

* The Rev. Peter Lowe, the primarius, appeared on the 5th day of the session, and took his seat; Dr. Bassett, his secundus, remaining as an advisory member.

3. *From the Classis of Bergen.*

Rev. John Cornelison, Jacob T. Field, and Peter Striker.†

Elders, Messrs. Thomas Blauvelt, Abraham Speer,‡ and Garrabrant Garrabrantz.‡

4. *From the Classis of Paramus.*

Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, Stephen Goetschius,‡ and James Demarest.§

Elders, Messrs. James Brinckerhoff, and Abraham Ackerman.‡

5. *From the Classis of New-Brunswick.*

Rev. Jacob Brodhead,§ John S. Vredenburgh,§ and Charles Hardenbergh.‡

Elders, Messrs. David Nevius,§ Garret Voorhees,§ and Garret Tunison.‡

From the Particular Synod of Albany.

1. *From the Classis of Poughkeepsie.*

Rev. William McMurray, Cornelius C. Cuyler,§ and Andrew N. Kittle.

Elders, Messrs. Henry Wiltsey, Aaron Camp,§ and David Van Ness.

2. *From the Classis of Albany.*

Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, and Gilbert R. Livingston.

Elders, Messrs. Abraham Hallenbeck, Abraham Van Vechten,§ and Stephen Van Rensselaer.§

3. *From the Classis of Ulster.*

Rev. Henry Ostrander,‖ and Peter D. Fræligh.§

† Appeared in the afternoon of the 1st day of the session, Rev. John Duryea, his secundus, having, until then, sitten as a member.

‡ Appeared in the afternoon of the 1st day of the session.

§ Appeared on the second day of the session; Rev. James S. Cannon sat one day as secundus of the Rev. Mr. Vredenburgh.

‖ Took his seat on the fourth day of the session.

4. *From the Classis of Montgomery.*

Rev. Isaac Labagh.

5. *From the Classis of Rensselaer.*

Rev. Jesse Fonda.‡

Elder, Mr. Leonard Gansevoort.§

ARTICLE III.

Moderators.

The Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford was duly elected President.

The Rev. Isaac Labagh, Adsessor.

The Rev. Selah S. Woodhull, and Andrew N. Kittle, Clerks.

ARTICLE IV.

Advisory Members.

The following persons appeared at different times, during the session, and were invited to sit as advisory members:

The Rev. Drs. Livingston, Kuypers, and Milledoler, and the Rev. Messrs. Dreyer, Westbrook, Mathews, C. Demarest, Polhemus, Steddiford, Cannon, P. Labagh. Schureman, Jeremiah Romeyn, Van Bunschooten, Kuypers, and Westervelt.

The Rev. Drs. Neill, and Blatchford, and the Rev. Messrs. Monteith, Chester, Grant, and Perine, of the Presbyterian church.

The Rev. Dr. Proudfit, and the Rev. Mr. McLeod, of the Associate Reformed Church.

ARTICLE V.

Reading of Minutes.

The minutes of the last ordinary session of the

‡ Appeared in the afternoon of the first day of the session.

§ Appeared on the 2d day of the session.

General Synod, and of the special meeting of the Synod, in October, 1813, were read.

ACTS OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Orders and Rules.

These were read.

ARTICLE II.

Standing Committees.

The following committees were appointed :

Committee on the Professorate, Rev. Messrs. Eltinge, Rowan, McMurray, and Gunn, and the Elders, Messrs. Hallenbeck and Storm.

Committee on Synodical Minutes, Rev. Messrs. Schoonmaker and Livingston, and the Elder, Mr. Striker.

Committee on Correspondence, Rev. Messrs. Labagh and Woodhull, and the Elder, Mr. Van Ness.

Committee on Missions, Rev. Messrs. Eltinge, Kittle and Brodhead, and the Elder, Mr. Hubbard.

Committee on the State of Religion, Rev. Messrs. Cuyler, Hardenbergh, and Field, and the Elder Mr. Vroom.

Committee on Gravamina, Rev. Dr. Bassett and Mr. Bogart, and the Elder, Mr. Brinckerhoff.

ARTICLE III.

Communications.

Communications from the Consistories of Albany, New-Brunswick and New-York, on the subject of the Professorate, were received and read. On motion, *Resolved*, That these communications be referred to the committee on the Professorate.

The Rev. Henry Polhemus presented a communication from the Classis of Ulster. The committee appointed at the last session of the General Synod to present a pastoral letter to the ministers and churches of the Classis of Ulster, made their report. This report, and the communication from the Classis of Ulster, were referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Brodhead and Fonda, and the Elder, Mr. Van Vechten.

This committee reported, and their report was recommitted to the same committee, and the Rev. Messrs. Hardenbergh and Rowan were added to the committee.

This committee reported, and their report was ADOPTED by the Synod, and is as follows :

" The committee to whom were referred certain resolutions of the Classis of Ulster, in respect to the proceedings of General Synod in the case of said Classis, and the Congregation of Kingston, together with the report of the committee appointed to deliver the circular letter addressed by the General Synod to the ministers and congregations belonging to the Classis of Ulster, report the following :

" That they are happy to find in the resolutions submitted to this Synod, expressive of their wishes, a Christian spirit, highly proper in every professor of religion, and especially in a lower judicatory addressing a higher ; and they hope that from the *respectful* application of that classis to this last court of appeal, and at *this* time, they will be perfectly satisfied with the final decision of this reverend body on the subject submitted to them.

" Your committee are pleased to find that the business, to be determined by this Synod, is brought by the

Classis themselves to a *single* point, upon which your committee presume there will be no difference of sentiment in this body.

" 1. They say that, *Whereas the General Synod, at their last session, have decided that, by the fourth article of their resolutions of* 1812, *on the case of the Classis, they had not intended any thing more than to declare that the agreement between the Consistory of Kingston and the petitioners for Dutch service in that congregation is not valid; and have expressly declared that they intended not to confirm the charges alledged by said Consistory against this Classis. And though this explanation is not found in the resolutions of the last General Synod on the memorial, yet it being found in the circular, and calculated to do away any impression that General Synod, in* 1812, *considered the Classis guilty of the charges: Therefore, resolved, that we receive this partial redress with unfeigned gratitude to that God who approved our innocence and integrity. 2dly, Resolved, that by the explanation given in the circular, of the intention of General Synod, of* 1812, *it appears that that body have not at all decided on the particular charges which the Consistory of Kingston alledged, and which the Particular Synod substantiated.*

" From their own statement, it is evident that all they wish, is to be considered *not guilty* of the charges alledged against them by the consistory of Kingston; and that, although *the explanation given in the circular is calculated to do away any impression that the General Synod, in* 1812, *considered the Classis guilty of the charges*, yet that the General Synod did not by any express resolution declare what *they say* the circular letter contains. Therefore, to bring the whole business to a

conclusion, according to the wishes of the Classis of Ulster, your committee recommend to Synod the adoption of the following resolutions :

" 1. *Resolved,* That this Synod consider the circular letter, addressed to the ministers and congregations of the Classis of Ulster, as fully expressive of their views, and their own act, as entirely as if *it* had been in the precise form of a resolution.

" 2. *Resolved,* That General Synod, by its affirmatory sentence on the appeal from the Particular Synod of Albany, in the case of the Classis of Ulster and the Consistory of Kingston, decided only upon the single point of the invalidity of the contract set up by the appellants, without reference to the reasons assigned by Particular Synod to support their decisions, which are complained of by the Classis of Ulster, and which the General Synod consider to be irrelevant to the merits of said appeal.

" 3. *Resolved further,* As the sense of this Synod, That inasmuch as the matters complained of by the Classis of Ulster, as charges against them, emanating from the Particular Synod of Albany, are not regularly before Synod ; that therefore, in the opinion of this Synod, those matters ought not to prejudice the character of the said Classis, or any of its members, in the estimation of any of their Christian brethren.

" Lastly, *Resolved,* That as this Synod, (as they conceive) have fully met the wishes of the Classis of Ulster, they consider this proceeding final in the case.

" All which is humbly submitted,

" JACOB BRODHEAD, *Chairman.*"

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Classis of Ulster to rescind so much of their acts in relation to

the disputes of that Classis with the Consistory of Kingston, the Particular Synod of Albany, and the General Synod, as implicates the characters of the Synods, and individuals.

A communication from the Classis of Paramus was received, and referred to the committee on the Professorate, excepting the last article of the said communication, which article was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Vredenburgh, Livingston, Cuyler, and Rowan, and the Elder, Mr. Van Vechten.

This special committee reported, and their report was ADOPTED, and is as follows:

"The committee to whom was referred a paper presented to the General Synod, by one of the delegates from the Classis of Paramus, purporting to be a copy of certain minutes of the proceedings of that Classis, report:

"That it appears, from the copy of the minutes of the Classis of Paramus, presented to the General Synod, that a committee of the Classis, of which the Rev. Stn. Goetschius was chairman, made a report, in the case of the Classis of Ulster and the Consistory of Kingston, *That the Classis of Ulster had been hardly and ungenerously handled by the Particular Synod of Albany, which treatment had been in a measure sanctioned by the General Synod, in the years* 1812 *and* 1813; and that the said committee, in their said report, recommended to the said Classis *to interfere in order to use their endeavors to exonerate the Classis of Ulster from* THOSE AFFLICTING AND PAINFUL GRIEVANCES, &c. That it does not appear from the said minutes that the Classis of Paramus adopted or countenanced the said report any farther

than allowing it to be entered on their minutes. But inasmuch as that entry has placed on the minutes of the Classis of Paramus an expression of censure, by a committee of an inferior judicatory, on the decisions and proceedings of higher judicatories, whose decisions and proceedings all the inferior judicatories are bound to respect and obey, your committee are constrained to declare, that in their opinion the report of the committee of the Classis of Paramus, and the entry thereof on the minutes of the said Classis, implicating the justice and rectitude of the decisions and proceedings of the Particular Synod of Albany, and the confirmation thereof by the General Synod, is a direct invasion of the legitimate privileges and authority of those judicatories, is calculated to cast contempt and reproach upon the government of the Reformed Dutch Church, and exhibits an example of insubordination, which demands the pointed disapprobation and animadversion of the General Synod.

"The constitution of the Reformed Dutch Church has designated clearly the different ecclesiastical judicatories by which it is to be governed, and has defined, with considerable precision, the powers of each. By the distribution of those powers, the Particular Synod has authority to review and supervise the proceedings of the Classes; and the General Synod possesses a supervising power over both. Hence it necessarily results, that it is not competent for a Classis to question either the justice or validity of any decision of the Particular Synod, otherwise than by an appeal to the General Synod; and that when such decision is confirmed on an appeal, all the subordinate judicatories of the church are bound by it. The correctness of these doc-

trines is so obvious and indisputable, that your committee flatter themselves that the Classis of Paramus will, without hesitation, admit them; and willingly concede that the aforesaid report of their committee in relation to a matter determined by the Particular Synod, and, to use their own language, *in a measure sanctioned by the General Synod*, was unwarranted, irregular, and subversive of good order, and the constitutional authority of the higher judicatories of our church, and that therefore the entry of the said report on the minutes of the Classis was highly improper. Under this impression, and believing that the proceedings of the Classis of Paramus, to which this report refers, were the result of inadvertence rather than a deliberate intent to infringe the province of the higher judicatories, and contemn their authority, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the report of the committee of the Classis of Paramus, entered upon the minutes of the said Classis, implicating the justice and rectitude of the decision and proceedings of the Particular Synod of Albany, reviewed and confirmed to a certain extent by the General Synod, in the case of the Classis of Ulster and the Consistory of Kingston—is irregular, offensive, and subversive of the regular authority of the higher judicatories of the Reformed Dutch Church, and meets the decided disapprobation and censure of the General Synod.

"CORNELIUS C. CUYLER, *Chairman*."

A communication was received from the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, which was read. The Synod resolved to accept of the donation therein referred to, on the terms and recommendations therein mentioned, and

referred the same to a special committee consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Vredenburgh and Fonda, and the Elders, Messrs. Vroom and Van Vechten.

This special committee reported, and their report was ACCEPTED, and is as follows:

"The committee appointed to confer with the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, and receive from him the bonds and monies by him given in trust to the trustees of Queen's College in New-Jersey for certain purposes and on certain conditions specified in a communication made by him to the Synod, respectfully report: That they have performed the duty assigned them, and have received ten obligations; one of which will be due on the first day of June next, and one on the first day of June in each year thereafter until the year 1824, and amounting in all to $13,840: and also the sum of $800 in cash, all of which they are ready to deliver to the Synod. The committee further inform Synod, that the Rev. Mr. Van Bunschooten has informed them that a mortgage is preparing to secure the payment of the above mentioned bonds, which, when executed, he will also forward to the trustees. The committee suggest the propriety of immediately taking measures for having the communication made by the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten and containing the conditions upon which the above donation is made, inserted in the minutes of the Synod, of the Particular Synods and of the several Classes, agreeably to the terms of said instrument of writing; and also of requesting the trustees of Queen's College to insert the same, at length, on their minutes; and also of proceeding immediately to appoint a committee of four, to meet with a like committee of the board of trustees, for the purposes speci-

fied in the said instrument. Finally, the committee suggest the propriety of entering on the minutes, and presenting to the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, suitable expressions of gratitude for his generous and pious gift, and fervent desires that it may be fruitful in benefits to the church of Christ, and rewards of grace and glory to himself, and that this his laudable example, may be followed by many to whom God has been pleased, in his providence, to give the means.

"JOHN S. VREDENBURGH, *Chairman.*"

Resolved, That the Rev. Messrs. Rowan and Cornelison, and the Elders, Messrs. Vroom and Tunison, be the committee to confer with a like committee of the board of trustees, on the second Tuesday of July next, in New-Brunswick.

Resolved, That the committee who conferred with the Rev. Mr. Van Bunschooten, be directed to deliver all the bonds and money they have received to the treasurer of Queen's College.

Resolved, That the communication of the Rev. Mr. Van Bunschooten be inserted on the minutes of this Synod, and that each of the Particular Synods, and of the Classes, belonging to this Synod, be instructed to insert the same on their minutes, and to read it at their ordinary sessions.

The following is the communication of the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten.

"The donor has a mind to bestow thirteen thousand eight hundred and forty dollars in obligations, and eight hundred in cash, to the trustees of Queen's College, in New-Jersey, in trust, on the following terms, viz. The General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in America, to appoint a committee, and said trustees to ap-

point one also. The two committees jointly to devise the best plan and most solid foundation to put out said money to interest, which the giver reserves to himself during his life: but after his decease, the trustees to use and apply said interest for the support and education, in the classical and theological studies, of pious youth, who hope they have a call of God to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ: no one is to be admitted to said benefit, but such as are recommended by General Synod. If the interest of what is now offered, and what in future may be added by him and others, should accumulate above the aforementioned education, such overplus, the trustees, with the advice and consent of General Synod, may then use and apply to such other purposes as shall most tend to the good of the institution and the benefit of literature: who are to render an account to General Synod, when they require it.

"The giver humbly desires that these terms be recorded in the record of General Synod, and in the record of the Particular Synods, and registered in the records of all the Classes belonging to General Synod; and to be read in the said judicatories at their ordinary meetings: not for aggrandizement or self ostentation, but to be an humble pattern for others to copy after: if the thing being so kept alive and considered, who knows whether God in his good providence would not move some to do the like.

"It will also be the pleasure and delight of him, the bestower and others, that all officers of the college live frugal and industrious, and thus set a good pattern to their pupils; and all ecclesiastical officers deport themselves diligent, frugal and pious, before those over whom they are set for edification: thus to prepare not

only for heaven, but also for the approaching millennium, the commencement of which may be at a farther distance than the present living. It is also the humble and sincere request of the donor, that the abovesaid officers exhibit no special inclination for luxury and accumulation of wealth, which is offensive, and bars the door of donation. On the said terms and recommendations, the giver is willing to bestow as before mentioned. New-York, June 9th, 1814.

"ELIAS V. BUNSCHOOTEN."

"It is my wish, and I therefore recommend it to the trustees within named, to require such retribution as they shall deem just and reasonable from any persons who shall obtain the benefit of the within mentioned fund, and who may become able to make such retribution. June 9th, 1814.

"ELIAS V. BUNSCHOOTEN."

Resolved, That the trustees of Queen's College be requested to insert the communication of the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten at length on their minutes.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare a receipt, and also a letter, to the Rev. Mr. Van Bunschooten, in which shall be expressed the grateful sentiments of this Synod; which committee shall report to this body, and that the Rev. Messrs. McMurray, Gunn, and Ostrander be such committee.

This committee reported as follows:

"The committee appointed to prepare a receipt, and a letter of thanks to the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, for his liberal donation to General Synod, beg leave to submit the following:

"The General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church have received from the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten

thirteen thousand eight hundred and forty dollars, in obligations, and eight hundred dollars in money, as a donation, the avails of which are to be devoted to the education of pious young men for the ministry, according to the directions given, in a declaration of trust, executed by the said Van Bunschooten to the trustees of Queen's College, in New-Jersey.

"Rev. Sir,

"The General Synod, impressed with a sense of the important benefit you have conferred on the church, under their care, beg you to accept their thanks and blessing. You no doubt have the reward which Christian benevolence always brings its possessor, in the consciousness of doing good; and that Redeemer, for the promotion of whose kingdom and glory, you have cheerfully devoted your earthly substance, will hereafter reward you with imperishable riches...an unfading inheritance. Others, we trust, to whom God has given wealth, will be induced to follow your bright example. We anticipate the happy result, that while the church, in succeeding generations, shall reap the benefit of your liberality, thousands, who may be ready to perish for want of spiritual food, and who may be fed by the means which you have bestowed, will bless your memory. We thank you: Posterity will bless you: God will reward you! And as the Lord has enabled and inclined you to bring forth fruit in old age, which, we trust, will redound to his glory, and the prosperity of Sion, our prayer to him is, that his covenant consolations may be the solace of your declining years; and that, when he shall see fit to call you from this world, you may go down to the grave, as a *shock of corn fully*

ripe, and enter into the joy of your Lord. You will then *rest from your labors, and your works will follow you.*

"Respectfully submitted,

"WM. McMURRAY, *Chairman.*"

Resolved, That the above report be ADOPTED; that copies of the letter and the receipt be prepared; that they be signed by the officers of this Synod, and handed to the Rev. Mr. Van Bunschooten.

The Rev. Dr. Livingston presented to the Synod a copy of the new edition of the Psalms and Hymns, and requested that the same be deposited among the archives of the Synod.

Resolved, That the same be accepted with cordial gratitude, and that it be deposited accordingly.

A communication was received from Messrs. Christie and Jones, students in theology in the seminary of the Associate Reformed Church; which communication was read, and referred to the committee on the Professorate.

The following communication from the board of superintendants was read, ordered to be inserted on the minutes, and referred to the committee on the Professorate.

"The board of superintendants of the Theological School, in conformity with the rule of Synod, beg leave to report:

"The first meeting of the board was held in Sept'r. 1812, when it was organized by the choice of officers, but no business of importance transacted, except the appointment of the Rev. John M. Van Harlingen, as temporary instructor in the Hebrew language and Ecclesiastical history. In April, 1813, the board met, and proceeded to the examination of the students.

These were eight in number, of different standings, from one to three years. Two of these were furnished with certificates for licensure; the rest continued in the school. At this meeting, the Rev. Mr. Van Harlingen announced his acceptance of the professorship of the Hebrew language, and his willingness to teach Ecclesiastical history. One hundred dollars were appropriated to the relief of indigent students, and one hundred dollars to the purchase of books, out of the moiety of the monies raised by collections.

"The board again met in September, 1813, and appointed a librarian, having received a considerable number of books by donation and purchase. One and twenty dollars were appropriated for Hebrew Bibles, &c. Two hundred dollars more were put at the disposition of the committee for the assistance of indigent students. The professor of Hebrew having been removed by death, in November, 1813, the Rev. Peter Steddiford was appointed teacher of Hebrew, until the present meeting of Synod. On the 31st of May, the board met for the purpose of attending to the annual examination. They found eleven students in the school, five of the first year, three of the second year, and three of three years standing. Mr. Jacob Van Vechten also presented himself as having passed through the course of study in the seminary of the Associate Reformed Church, under a dispensation of General Synod, and requested to be examined for the purpose of obtaining the regular professoral certificate. The school was examined; and Messrs. Cornelius Vermeule, Staats Van Santford, James Murphy, together with Jacob Van Vechten, were recommended to Professor Livingston, for a certificate which might admit them to licen-

sure before their respective Classes. A committee was appointed at this meeting to superintend the admission of students into the Theological School. Many subjects of minor importance have received the attention of the board, the details of which may be seen in the minutes, but are not worthy of repetition in this report. The board can only say, generally, that they have endeavored faithfully to execute the duties assigned them, by preaching, examinations, discipline, and appropriation of the funds committed to their care for the support of indigent students, and the acquisition of a library. By donation and purchase of elementary, standard works, and others, it is presumed there are upwards of 200 volumes in the library.

"Since the establishment of the school at New-Brunswick, seven young gentlemen have been fitted for the ministry, (eight including Van Vechten) and eight remain in the school, with the prospect of some additions. The board have been highly gratified with the professor's mode of instruction, with the several examinations of the students, and especially with the acquisitions of those who have been recommended for licensure. *They* promise, under the blessing of God, to be highly respectable and useful in the church. But they have to lament that some very important branches of a theological education cannot be pursued with all desirable advantage, on account of a deficiency in the contemplated number of professors. Professor Livingston, by his faithfulness and diligence, deserves the gratitude of the Church and Synod; but the duties are too extensive and various for one person; and even if he were willing to undertake them, the relief of this aged and venerable teacher—the plan of the school—its respectability,

and usefulness—together with the reputation and interests of the church at large, require the establishment of at least another professorship. Towards this object, the board has learned, from the trustees of Queen's College, the Consistory of the church in Albany has resolved to give $750 a year for six years, and the Consistory of the church in New-Brunswick $200 a year for the same time, upon condition that other churches will contribute proportionably to the same object. Could some of our endowed churches be induced to aid with their substance in this pious design, and establish a professorship, which should embrace the Hebrew language, Biblical criticism, and Ecclesiastical history, the school would present to the church all reasonable advantage for an adequate education for the gospel ministry, and be established on a foundation, which would invite the confidence and promote the welfare of our Sion. After this statement of their proceedings, and the operations, wants, and present state of the school, the board conclude, with respectfully urging on the attention of Synod, the adoption of measures for the establishment and support of a second professorship. W. ELTINGE, *P. T. President.*"

ARTICLE IV.

Correspondence.

The committee on correspondence reported, and the report was re-committed to the same committee.

The Rev. Messrs. Handel and Helfenstein appeared on the floor of Synod as corresponding members from the German Reformed Synod of Pennsylvania—were cordially recognized as such, and invited to sit as members of this Synod. A communication was received

from the above gentlemen, read, and referred to the committee on correspondence. A copy of the minutes of the last session of the German Synod was received and laid on the table: also a copy of their constitution in the German language, which the Rev. Isaac Labagh was requested to translate.

The committee on correspondence again reported, which report was amended, and afterwards ADOPTED, and is as follows:

"The committee on correspondence report, that the delegates to the German Synod fulfilled their appointment, and were cordially received. Your committee submit to the Synod the following resolutions.

"*Resolved*, That this Synod receive with pleasure the Rev. Messrs. Helfenstein and Handel, the delegates from the German Synod, and are grateful to that body for the copies of their last minutes and of their constitution, which have been presented to this Synod.

"*Resolved*, That the stated clerk forward to the German Synod a copy of the acts and proceedings of this Synod at their present session.

"*Resolved*, That this Synod cheerfully agree to the plan, proposed by the German Synod, on which the correspondence between the two churches shall hereafter be conducted, viz.

"1. Each Synod shall receive the delegates from the sister church in a brotherly and affectionate manner, and provide them suitable accommodations during the session of Synod.

"2. The delegates shall produce their credentials at an early part of the session, and shall then be invited to take their seats as advisory members: that is, they shall have the right to express their opinions on all sub-

jects, which relate to the general interest of the churches, or to the promotion of religion, but shall not vote on any question before the Synod.

"All which is respectfully submitted,

"ISAAC LABAGH,
"S. S. WOODHULL, } *Committee.*"
"DAVID VAN NESS,

The Rev. John Schureman and Charles Hardenbergh were appointed delegates primarii, and the Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook was appointed a delegate secundus, to attend the next session of the German Synod in Easton, Pennsylvania, the fourth Sunday after Easter, 1815.

ARTICLE V.

Synodical Reports on the State of the Churches.

The committee on the state of religion reported, and their report was re-committed to the same committee.

This committee again reported; and their report was amended, and afterwards ADOPTED, and is as follows:

"The committee on the state of religion respectfully submit the following report:

"That from the report of the different Classes, as expressed on the minutes of the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany, (the only official source of information on the subject committed to them,) it appears, that there have been no general or remarkable revivals in the church; and that the state of religion at present is not so flattering and encouraging as they could wish. A considerable degree of langour and coldness, as it respects the life and power of religion, evidently prevails in most of the congregations, not only with the men of the world, but, in too many instances, with those who profess to be the followers of the

Redeemer. The means of grace appear indeed to be duly administered and generally attended to, but have not that salutary effect, nor are they productive of so great good to the souls of men, as could be desired. The ministers of the word evidently have great reason to adopt the plaintive language of the prophet, *who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?* and with their lamentations, to unite their most ardent prayers, that the great head of the church would *in wrath remember mercy, and revive his work in the midst of the years.*

"With grateful acknowledgements, however, to the author of all good, your committee rejoice to have it in their power to state, that as a church, the Lord has not quite forsaken us—that he has not wholly given over his heritage to reproach. In several parts of our Sion, we see his effectual working on the hearts and consciences of sinners, and witness the efficacy of his unspeakable grace in their conversion and salvation: and while they discover in the church generally, a continued, and as they are led to believe, an increasing attention to the external means of grace, they indulge a hope, that God in his great goodness will yet remember mercy, and make our Sion a praise in the earth.

On the subject of prevailing sin, which your committee consider as also calling for their attention, they remark, that from the documents before them, they do not learn the prevalence of any particular crying sins. All they discover is a general expression of regret on account of too great an inattention of the greater part of men, to their eternal interests, and their immoderate attachment to the world and sin. From their own observation, however, your committee are persuaded, that

there are many evils prevailing in the congregations, under the jurisdiction of this Synod, which cry to God for vengeance, and which, as they make us partakers in common in the iniquity which prevails in the land, charge us before him with being also instrumental in bringing on our country the awful calamities which at present visit us. Your committee take the liberty of suggesting to Synod, the propriety of recommending to the different Classes, to be more particular, in future, in their reports to the Particular Synods on the subject of prevailing sins, and also on the state of religion within their bounds. Your committee would also recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That it be enjoined on the Particular Synods, Classes and Consistories to be punctual and strict in making out their statistical reports."

"In addition to the above Report on the State of Religion, your committee submit the following Statistical View of the Synods, Classes, and congregations under your jurisdiction, for the information of the churches.

PARTICULAR SYNODS.....*New-York and Albany.*

CLASSES.....*New-York.*

Churches.	Pastors.	Families.	Total of Congregation.	In commun. pr last rep't.	Received on confession.	Received on certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.
New-York,	Dr. Kuypers, Dr. Milledoler,	360	1800	732	54	30	39	2	18	759
Garden street,	J. M. Mathews,	100	600		7	44			1	50
Brooklyn,	S. S. Woodhull,	138	700	103	6	6	2		4	109
Northwest,	Ch. Bork,	220					12	2	6	320
Greenwich,	St. N. Rowan,	80	400	111	19	3	14	2	3	116
Bloomingdale,	Alexander Gunn,			26	2					28
Haerlem,	No Pastor.									
Fordham.	No Pastor,	40					2		2	18
Tarrytown,	Thos. G. Smith.									
Cortlandtown,	Abm. Hoffman,	49	226	51	3				3	51
German ch.	No Pastor.									

Bergen.

Churches.	Pastors.	Families.	Total of Congregation.	In commun per. last rept.	Received on confession.	Received on certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.
Bergen,	J. Cornelison,	146	600	103	7		3		3	104
English neighbourhood,	C. S. Demarest,	141	817	50	14			1	1	62
Ponds,	J. Demarest,	184	908	104	4				3	105
Pompton,	Jacob T. Field,	207	1193	77	5					82
Preakness,	No Pastor,	70	366							42
Hackensack,	J.V.C.Romeyn,	144	546							
and Schraalenbergh,	J.V.C.Romeyn,	104	409							
Bellville,	No Pastor,	140	560							
Stone h. Plains,	No Pastor,	130	720							
Fairfield,	No Pastor.									
Boontown,	No Pastor.									

Paramus.....*No Statistical Reports.*

New-Brunswick.

Shannick,	Peter Labagh,	173	955	92	7			2	3	94
Harlagen,	W. R. Smith,									
Bedminster,	C. Hardenbergh,	173	1059	120	7	4	4	4	2	121
North and S. Hampton,	J. Larzalier,	110	660	61	18				2	77
Philadelphia,	Jacob Brodhead,	215			75					165
Six Mile Run,	James S. Cannon.									
Hillsborough,	Jno. L. Zabriskie,									
Raritan,	J.S.Vredenburgh.									
Readington,	Peter Steddiford.									
N. Brunswick,	Jesse Fonda.									
Rockaway in Lebanon,	No Pastor.									
Rockaway,	No Pastor.									
Minisink,	No Pastor.									
Mahackamack	No Pastor.									
Clove,	No Pastor.									
Smithfield,	No Pastor.									

Long Island.

Jamaica,	J. Schoonmaker, Z. H. Kuypers.
New-Utrecht,	John Beatty.
Flatbush,	Peter Lowe.
Bushwick & Gravesend,	Dr. J. Bassett.
Newtown,	J. Schoonmaker, Z. H. Kuypers.

Churches.	Pastors.	Families.	Total of Congregation.	In communion.	Ir. last rep't.	Received on confession.	Received on certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.
Flatlands,	Peter Lowe,										
Oysterbay,	D. S. Bogart,										
Success,	Z. H. Knypers.										
Staten Island,	P. I. Van Pelt.										
SYNOD OF ALBANY.											
CLASSES.											
POUGHKEEPSIE.											
Poughkeepsie,	C. C. Cuyler,	300	1900	180	27		5	3	6		193
Fishkill,	C. D. Westbrook,	120	500	80	27				4		103
Rhinebeck Fts.	W. McMurray,	128	790	133	12		1		4		140
Kingston,	John Gosman,	280	1750	286	33			5	12		302
Red Hook & St. Johns,	A. N. Kittle,	110		90	14		1	1	3		99
Greenbush & Taghanack,	Herman Vedder,	270	1820	142	17				7		152
Hopewell, & New-Hackensack,	Thos. De Witt,	90		49	47			1	5		90
		108	680	43	10			1	2		55
Staatsburgh,	No Pastor,			19	2						21
Linlithgow,	No Pastor.										
MONTGOMERY.											
Caughnawaga,	A. Van Horn,	250									230
Germanflatts	J. P. Spinner,	184									230
Herkimer,		153							10		364
Beaverdam,	David Devoe,	131							5		130
Middleburgh		140									93
Middletown,	John C. Toll,	70									61
Westerlo,		61									44
Charlestown,	P. V. Beuren,	157									109
Florida,	Winslow Paige,	250							4		120
New-Rhinebeck, &	Isaac Labagh,	120							2		90
Sharon,		150							2		80
Fort Plain, Stonearabia,	John I. Wack										
Dyse's Manor,	C. D. Schermerhorn										
Ovid,	Abm. Brocaw,										
Aurelius, Owasco,	C. Ten Eyck,										
Union, Chenango,	S. Palmer.										
Schoharie-Mountains,	No Pastor.	32							2		30

"Churches of Mayfield, Fonda's Bush, Union Osquach, Indian Castle, Coenrad's Town, 2d Church Charlestown, Blenheim, and Schoharie Kill, made no reports, and have no Pastors.

"Classes of Albany, Rensselaer, and Ulster, made no reports.

"In behalf of the committee,
CORNs. C. CUYLER, *Chairman.*"

ARTICLE VI.

Synodical Appeals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE VII.

Synodical References.

The committee on Synodical minutes reported, and their report was *accepted*, and is as follows:

"The committee on Synodical minutes report, that from an examination of the minutes of the Particular Synod of New-York, the following articles appear to demand the attention of General Synod.

"1. A reference from the Classis of New-York, respecting the relation Professor Livingston sustains to the Classis and church of New-York.

"2. An instruction to the delegates to General Synod to enquire of that body, to what particular objects the enquiries respecting usages and customs are to be directed by the different Classes.

"3. Also, to represent to said Synod the propriety of taking measures to establish a fund for the use of the churches in common, to defray the expenses of delegates to both the Particular and General Synods.

"From an inspection of the minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany, your committee find,

"4 That General Synod be requested to express an opinion relative to the propriety of receiving licentiates of the congregational church, as candidates in the Reformed Dutch Church, without a previous examination.

"5. That the following questions be proposed to General Synod for their answer, viz: I. What is to be understood by the term, *Infants of believers*, in the 34th article of the confession of faith, and in the title of the form for the administration of baptism? II. In what sense is baptism a seal of the righteousness of faith? And whose faith does it seal? III. What is the meaning of the expression, *Beloved in the Lord Christ*, in the exhortation to parents, and to those who come with them to baptism? Respectfully submitted,

"JACOB SCHOONMAKER, *Chairman*."

The first section of the report of the committee on Synodical minutes was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Labagh and Rowan, and the elder Mr. Van Vechten.

The second section was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Striker and Goetschius, and the elder Mr. Voorhees.

The third section was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Gunn and M'Murray, and the elder Mr. Gansevoort.

The fourth section was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Brodhead and Livingston, and the elder Mr Vroom.

The fifth section was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Vredenburgh and Woodhull, and the elder Mr. Storm.

The committee on the first section of the report on Synodical minutes, reported, and their report was recommitted to the same committee, with the addition of the Rev. Messrs. Eltinge and Brodhead, with directions to arrange the same with the amendments made by the Synod.

This committee again reported, and their report was ADOPTED, and is as follows:

"The committee to whom was referred the first article of the report on Synodical minutes, with regard to the relation of Dr. Livingston to the church and Classis of New-York, submit the following report:

"Whereas it is necessary that the ecclesiastical relation of the professor of theology should be clearly ascertained and settled by General Synod, as well for the information and guidance of the professor, as of the several judicatories of the church: Therefore, *Resolved*, That by the constitution of the Reformed Dutch Church, the professor of theology, as such, has no relation to, or connection with any particular Classis, and is amenable only to the General Synod, whose officer he is; and of course, must take a regular dismission from the church and Classis to which he belonged: but, whenever he shall sustain, or with the consent of the General Synod, assume the pastoral charge of a congregation, he will, as pastor, stand on the same footing respecting the Classis with which such congregation is connected, as any other Minister of a congregation.

"And whereas, by reason that the ecclesiastical relation of the professor has hitherto been unascertained, conflicting opinions have been entertained by him and the Classis of New-York, relative to his duty as a member of the Classis to preserve the regular mode of dis-

solving his pastoral connection with the congregation of New-York, without any intention on the part of either to omit a strict conformity to the established rules of the church—and whereas, from the mutual respect and affection, which subsist between the Classis of New-York and the professor, it is desirable that nothing should appear upon the minutes of Synod, which may be susceptible of an injurious construction against either, *Resolved further*, That none of the proceedings, relative to the foregoing subject, which have been entered on the minutes of the said Classis, be recorded upon the minutes of the General Synod.

"S. N. ROWAN, *Chairman.*"

The committee on the second section of the report on Synodical minutes, reported, and their report was ADOPTED, and is as follows:

"Agreeably to the resolutions of the Particular Synod of New-York in May last, Art. 11th, under the Lemma, *Customs and usages*, and also Art. 27th, under the Lemma, *Instructions to delegates:* The first resolution requiring *that the president enquire of the delegates of the different Classes present whether such customs and usages as are tested by long experience to be for edification, and whether the injunction of watching against innovations are attended to in the respective churches under their care.* The second resolution requiring *that our delegates to General Synod be directed to enquire of that body, to what particular objects the enquiries respecting customs and usages are to be directed by the different Classes.* Your committee beg leave to report—That those customs and usages, which were deemed necessary to be continued in the church, are expressed in the explanatory articles of the constitution, such as singing the Psalms

and Hymns approved of and recommended by General Synod, preaching from the Heidelbergh Catechism, observing the forms in the administration of baptism and the Lord's supper, &c. as contained in our Liturgy, &c. That other customs and usages prevail in the church, which are deemed non-essential, and in many instances are either wholly dispensed with or partially retained in our congregations, according to the taste or circumstances of pastors or people, such as the arrangements observed in the performance of public worship, the number of times singing Psalms and Hymns, reading sermons, and preaching them from memory or extemporaneously, sprinkling in baptism one or three times, sitting or standing in receiving the Lord's supper, preaching on Ascension Day, Good Friday, and other days which have long been observed both in Holland and America, &c. Your committee observe that those customs and usages, which are deemed essential and constitutional, are preserved pure and entire by the different Classes: and we observe likewise, that those which are considered non-essential, are dispensed with, or retained, and altered, according to the taste or circumstances of different Ministers of congregations.

"P. STRYKER, *Chairman.*"

A motion was made and seconded to re-consider the above report respecting usages and customs, which motion was negatived. The yeas and nays were called on this motion, and were as follows: Yeas 10. Nays 32.

YEAS.

Rev. Jacob Schoonmaker,	Henry Ostrander,
Dr. John Bassett,	Mr. Guysbert B. Vroom,
Peter D. Fræligh,	Thomas Storm,

Mr. Rem Hageman. Mr. Elias Hubbard,
Peter Duryea, James Brinckerhoff, 10.

NAYS.

Rev. Selah S. Woodhull, Rev. James S. Cannon.
Stephen N. Rowan, Andrew N. Kittle,
Alexander Gunn, Mr. James Striker,
David S. Bogart, Thomas Blauvelt,
John Cornelison, Abraham Spear,
Jacob T. Field, Garrabrant Garrabrantz,
Peter Stryker, Garret Tunison,
Wilhelmus Eltinge, Garret Voorhees,
Stephen Goetschius, David Nevius,
Charles Hardenbergh, David Van Ness,
Jacob Brodhead, Henry Wiltsey,
William McMurray, Aaron Camp,
Cornelius C. Cuyler, Abraham Hallenbeck,
Gilbert R. Livingston, Abraham Van Vechten,
Isaac Labagh, Stephen Van Rensselaer
Jesse Fonda, Leonard Gansevoort. 32.

The committee on the third section of the report on Synodical minutes, reported, and their report was ADOPTED, and is as follows:

" The committee, appointed to report on the propriety of this Synod's taking measures to establish a fund for the use of the churches in common, to defray the expenses of delegates to both the Particular and General Synods, beg leave to state, that they are convinced, the establishment of a fund for this purpose would be followed by the most salutary effects, inasmuch as it would tend to secure, what is very important to the interests of the church, a punctual and faithful attendance on these judicatories. As the expense of travelling, for those members especially who live at some distance

from the places in which these judicatories usually meet, and of boarding during their session, must be very considerable, it no doubt does operate, more or less, to induce them to render their stay as short as possible, and with some, perhaps, to prevent their attendance altogether. The Synods have frequently been under the necessity of adjourning, from time to time, for want of a sufficient number of members to form quorums; or, after they had opened, of hurrying through important business, lest that should be the case: and it is not to be expected it should be otherwise, as long as the expense of travelling and boarding devolves upon the delegates. As, however, they come to attend, not to their individual concerns, but to act as representatives of their respective judicatories, and to serve the church, it is no more than right that the church should defray their expenses. This will be generally admitted; but there may be some difficulty as respects the precise measures which should be taken to accomplish the object proposed. Your committee have thought of a variety of plans; but the least exceptionable one, in their opinion, is the following, which they recommend for the adoption of Synod, viz. That the sum of two dollars be annually paid by the several Consistories, and be transmitted, through the Particular Synods, to the General Synod, for the aforesaid purposes; that churches, which can do it with a tolerable prospect of success, be requested to take up collections to be applied to the same object; and that the Consistories of New-York and Albany be earnestly requested to provide for the accommodation of both Ministers and Elders, at the sessions of Synod, in private families. If this last measure be attended to, as is hoped it will be, the fund

will be drawn upon merely to meet the travelling expenses of delegates, for which it will be amply sufficient.

"All which is respectfully submitted,
"ALEXANDER GUNN, *Chairman.*"

The committee on the fourth section of the report on Synodical minutes, reported, and their report was ADOPTED, and is as follows:

"The committee appointed on the fourth article of the report of the committee on Synodical minutes, in respect to the propriety of receiving licentiates from the Congregational church, as candidates of the Reformed Dutch Church, without previous examination, report: That in the opinion of your committee, the admission of candidates and ministers from the Congregational churches into our church, without previous examination, is very improper, and highly censurable, for the following reasons. 1st. It is well known that the government of these churches is very different from that which is adopted by our church, which government we believe to be according to the word of God, and therefore best calculated to promote the prosperity and peace of the church of Jesus Christ. 2d. Your committee think such mode of procedure improper, and likely to be followed with most pernicious effects, as it respects the welfare and prosperity of the church; because it is believed that *that* body of professing Christians maintain doctrines directly contrary to many of those which we believe to be the pure unadulterated doctrines of the Gospel.

"Although your committee do not wish to cherish a spirit of bigotry, and are willing that all religious sects and denominations should enjoy their opinions in re-

gard to the doctrines of the Gospel, yet they humbly conceive that we should strenuously maintain that system of doctrines and discipline, which we conceive to be most conformable to the Gospel, and most conducive to the peace and welfare of the church. Your committee therefore recommend to your reverend body, the following resolution for adoption: That the judicatories of the church be and are hereby required to receive no licentiates or ministers, under their care, from any body of professing Christians, who maintain doctrines different from our's, without an open and explicit declaration, on their part, that they have renounced such doctrines, as contrary to the Holy Scriptures, and the standards of our church.

"All which is respectfully submitted,

"JACOB BRODHEAD, *Chairman.*"

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Particular Synod of Albany, to enjoin it upon the Classis of Montgomery to enquire into the sentiments and views of Mr. Schermerhorn, a licentiate from the Congregational church, as they regard the particular doctrines and government of our church; and that, if he do not explicitly renounce every doctrine inconsistent with the word of God and the standards of the church, that then they deal with him accordingly: and that it be enjoined upon the different judicatories of this church, to notice every deviation in any of its ministers from the doctrines and standards of the church, and faithfully deal with all who may espouse erroneous sentiments.

The committee on the fifth section of the report on Synodical minutes, reported as follows:

"The committee on the last article of the report on Synodical minutes, which relates to the questions proposed by the Classis of Poughkeepsie and referred by the Particular Synod of Albany to this General Synod, submit the following report:

"Our good and gracious God has appointed two sacraments, which are *holy visible signs and seals, by the use of which, he more fully declares and seals to us the promise of the gospel.* Many men make a vast distinction between these sacraments, as to importance and solemnity; but, whatever the inferiority to which one has been sunk, whatever the superiority to which another has been raised, by erring man, baptism and the Lord's supper are of *equal* dignity, and to be regarded with equal care. They are appointed by the *same* Lord: He, who said, *This do, in remembrance of me*—He also said, *Go ye, teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,* These sacraments are seals of the *same* covenant, and signs of the *same* blessings; and so our church, in her catechism, defines them *jointly*, to be *holy signs and seals instituted by God, thereby to assure us that he of grace grants us remission of sins and life eternal, for the sake of the sacrifice of Christ.* These sacraments are intended only for such as are really the Lord's people. For they only *can* remember him at his table, with emotions of faith and repentance, of love and thankfulness, of cordial attachment and well founded joy. They, and they only, *can* be assured, by the sacrament of baptism, that God forgives and blesses them for the sake of Jesus Christ: it is only to such as are the Lord's people in truth that baptism *can seal his promises, be a pledge of his good will and grace, and be a mean of nourishing and*

strengthening faith. Because the promises are made only to the Lord's people; they alone are heirs of God's grace; they alone are possessors of faith. From these truths, it is most evident, that only such as give public evidences that they are God's renewed children are to be admitted to the holy supper or to baptism. And this is declared to be the sentiment of our church, in the answer to the question, *For whom is the Lord's supper instituted?* and in the form for the administration of holy baptism to adult persons. Those, who give such evidences, are to be regarded as *in* or *united to the Lord Christ,* and beloved in him and for his sake by God, and by the people of God. Baptism is administered to infants, as being interested in God's promise through the faith of one or both of their parents; agreeably to the passage, *the promise is unto you and to your children.*

"Though these remarks are very far from being a full statement of every particular relative to baptism and the Lord's supper; yet they all have a manifest reference to the questions which have been proposed, and will greatly assist in answering them.

"The 1st question is, What is to be understood by the term, *Infants of believers,* in the 34th article of the Confession of faith, and in the title of the form for the administration of baptism?

"The answer to this question is plain. None are to be—none can be justly regarded as *infants of believers,* but those infants, one or both of whose parents give probable evidences of the possession of faith in the Lord Christ. None are, God regards none as, really believers but such as do possess saving faith; all else called faith is but a name; and so the church can con-

sider none other as believers than those who give credible evidence of their having this faith. Infants of believers, *in God's account*, then, are the infants, in one or both of whose parents, God's Holy Spirit has wrought as the spirit of faith. Infants of believers, *in the account of man and of the church*, are to be only those, whose parents, one or both of them, give probable evidences that God's Spirit has thus wrought in them. This, by no means, imports, however, that none are to be regarded as believers but such as come to the table of the Lord; *nor is the partaking of the Lord's Supper by one or both of the parents an indispensable test for admitting infants to be baptized.*

"The 2d question is, In what sense is baptism a seal of the righteousness of faith, and whose faith does it seal?

"The answer is this. Baptism is, as circumcision was, a seal of the righteousness of faith, as the reception of baptism in faith assures the soul of the faithfulness of a covenant God, and as the reception of baptism is a solemn pledge of devotion to God, and of resolution to walk in righteousness. And baptism is a seal to confirm the faith of such as receive the administration of the ordinance to themselves or to their children, and also to confirm the faith of all the people of God, who witness the administration.

"The 3d question is, What is the meaning of the expression, *Beloved in the Lord Christ*, in the exhortation to parents and to those who come with them to baptism?

"The answer is this. They only are *in the Lord Christ*, who are united to him by a living faith. As the church cannot search the heart, she is to regard the

confession of the mouth and the tenor of the life; and less than probable evidences from these sources ought not to satisfy her. But when these probable evidences of the possession of living faith are given to the church by any persons, then she is to look upon such as united to Christ. Therefore the church loves them, and addresses them as her *beloved*, hoping and believing that they are beloved of her God.

"All which is respectfully submitted,

"S. S. WOODHULL, } *Committee.*"
"THOMAS STORM, }

A motion was made and seconded for the adoption of the above report. After considering the subject, the *previous question* was moved, and the Synod decided that the main question should not be now put, on the principle, that it is inexpedient for them to determine questions which are abstractly brought before them.

The report of a committee of General Synod, in 1813, which was referred to this Synod, respecting the articles of union, was called up. The Rev. Dr. Kuypers informed Synod that he had not translated the said articles.

Resolved, That he be again requested to translate them; and that the consideration of the subject be postponed till the next meeting of the General Synod.

ARTICLE VIII.

Grievances.

The committee on Gravamina reported; and their report was recommitted to the same committee.

The committee on Gravamina again reported "that on a reconsideration of the report, which was recom-

mitted to them, they have now no communication to make to Synod on the subject referred to them.

"J. Bassett,
"D. S. Bogart, } *Committee.*"
"J. Brinkerhoff,

Ordered, That this report be accepted.

ARTICLE IX.

Church Government.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE X.

Doctrines and Morals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XI.

Customs and Usages.

See, under article VII. the report of the committee on the second section of the report on Synodical minutes.

The following resolution was proposed and adopted, viz.

Resolved, That the resolutions passed at the last ordinary session of the General Synod, relative to the manner of delivering sermons, be and they are hereby repealed.

The yeas and nays being called for, were as follows: Yeas 26, Nays 15.

YEAS.

Rev. Selah S. Woodhull,	Mr. James Striker,
Stephen N. Rowan,	Thomas Blauvelt,
Alexander Gunn,	Abraham Spear,
David S. Bogart,	Garrabrant Garrabrantz,
Jacob T. Field,	David Nevius,

Rev. Peter Stryker,
Wilhelmus Eltinge,
Jacob Brodhead,
Andrew N. Kittle,
William McMurray,
Cornelius C. Cuyler,
Gilbert R. Livingston,
Isaac Labagh,
Jesse Fonda.

Mr. David Van Ness,
Henry Wiltsey,
Aaron Camp,
Abraham Hallenbeck,
Abraham Van Vechten,
Stephen Van Rensselaer,
Leonard Gansevoort. 26.

NAYS.

Rev. Jacob Schoonmaker,
Peter Lowe,
John Cornelison,
Charles Hardenbergh,
John S. Vredenburgh,
Peter D. Fræligh,
Henry Ostrander.

Mr. Guysbert B. Vroom,
Thomas Storm,
Rem Hageman,
Elias Hubbard,
Peter Duryea,
James Brinkerhoff,
Garret Tunison,
Garret Voorhees. 15.

ARTICLE XII.

Schools and Christian Education.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIII.

Queen's College.

The following resolution was received from the trustees of Queen's College in, New-Jersey.

"New-Brunswick, April 14th, 1814. *Resolved,* That Messrs. James Schureman, J. R. Hardenbergh, and the Rev. Jesse Fonda, be appointed a committee to attend the General Synod in New-York in June next, to confer and communicate with them on the general interests of the Theological and Literary institutions in this place. A true extract,

"WM. P. DEARE, *Clerk of the Board.*"

Resolved, That the trustees of Queen's College be and are hereby requested to lay before General Synod, at every stated annual meeting, a particular statement of the receipts and disbursements of all monies belonging to the professoral fund, and also a statement of the funds on hand, the manner of their investment, their annual product, and the account of debts due from that fund to any person or persons whatsoever.

Resolved, That if the trustees of Queen's College should appoint any Minister or Ministers to solicit donations to the Theological School, the Classis, out of whose bounds said Minister or Ministers shall be appointed, be instructed to make provision to have his or their congregations supplied with regular preaching.

ARTICLE XIV.

Professorate.

The committee on the Professorate reported, and their report was recommitted.

This committee again reported, and their report was amended, and afterwards ADOPTED, and is as follows:

"The committee on the Professorate beg leave to submit the following report: Your committee wish first to call your attention to the three communications from the Consistories of Albany, New-Brunswick, and New-York, to your Reverend body, on the subject of a professoral fund, which were referred to them: the two former containing liberal proffers for aiding the professorate, the latter, an apology embracing several reasons for not making a similar proffer. Your committee are of opinion, that the Consistory of Albany, in offering the sum of 750 dolls. annually for the term of six years, and the Consistory of New-Brunswick, in offering the

sum of 200 dolls. annually for the same term, in order to support an additional professor in our Theological School deserve the thanks and gratitude of our churches. Your committee beg leave to recommend for the adoption of Synod, the following resolutions, viz.

" 1. *Resolved*, That the Consistories of Albany and New-Brunswick deserve the thanks and gratitude of our churches, for their generous proffers tendered towards the more perfect establishment of our Theological seminary ; and that Synod do hereby express the thanks of their churches, and their acceptance of said proffers, upon the conditions stipulated by said Consistories.

" 2. *Resolved*, That the other incorporated bodies in our church, possessing adequate funds, be and are hereby solicited to follow the generous example set by the Consistories of Albany and New-Brunswick, and furnish the additional requisite means for the more perfect establishment of said school.

" *Resolved*, That for the more perfect establishment of said school, it is necessary that it be endowed with another professorship.

" 4. *Resolved*, That the certificate of the board of superintendants shall be sufficient to entitle any student to examination before any Classis, as far as it respects his acquirements in the Hebrew language, until an Hebrew professor be appointed in the Theological seminary.

" On the request from the Classis of Paramus, relating to an explanation of Art. 15, of the minutes of General Synod, in 1813, your committee are of opinion that the preamble of said article, taken in connection with *its* resolution, sufficiently expresses that it has no

reference to the students of Professor Frælígh's theological school: but to remove every shadow of obscurity from the resolution of said article, they recommend the following resolution, viz.

"*Resolved*, That Article 15, of the minutes of General Synod, in 1813, on the subject of dispensation, has no reference to the students of Professor Frælígh's theological school; but was only intended to have a bearing on the divinity schools of sister churches.

"On the subject of the application from James Christie and Nicholas Jones, students in Dr. Mason's divinity school, for a dispensation from General Synod, your committee are of opinion, that connections and interests of a personal nature claimed, and do claim the residence of the applicants in the city of New-York, and rendered, and do render it impracticable for them to attend the Theological Hall, at New-Brunswick: they therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution, viz.

"*Resolved*, That the request of the above applicants to General Synod, for dispensations, to continue their studies in the Associate Reformed School, and when finished, to be admitted to examination before our board of superintendants and professor, be and is hereby granted.

"Your committee, in the interview and conversation they have had with the professor, find that his sole object in the observations he made in Synod, respecting the present state of the funds for the support of the Theological Institution, was, to call the attention of the Synod and the churches to the real situation of the establishment, and to announce, that, although he had thus far proceeded in their service principally upon his

own expense, yet it will not, in his opinion, be for the interest of the churches to proceed farther in that undefined manner, or suffer their institution to remain any longer without due support: the salary, stipulated by the board of trustees, ought no doubt to be realized, or every expectation of the continuance of the establishment must sooner or later be assuredly frustrated. Your committee being of opinion that *the present circumstances* of our Theological establishment loudly call for the prompt and united exertions of your churches, through farther subscriptions and annual collections, for the realizing the present establishment, do therefore recommend the following resolutions, viz.

"1. *Resolved*, That the board of trustees of Queen's College be directed immediately to pay the arrearages of the professor's salary out of the principal of the theological fund.

"2. *Resolved*, That all our churches be enjoined faithfully to attend to the annual collections for the professorate, in order to enable the trustees of Queen's College (from the interest of the professoral fund, and from the said collections) to realize the professor's salary. All which is humbly submitted,

"W. ELTINGE, *Chairman*."

Resolved, That it be recommended to all the congregations to establish societies within their bounds, for the purpose of supporting the Theological School, by furnishing means to pay the salary of the professor or professors.

ARTICLE XV.

Students in Theology.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVI.

Church Visitation.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVII.

Prevailing Sins.

See under article V.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Missions.

The committee on Missions reported, and their report was ADOPTED, and is as follows:

"The committee on Missions respectfully report, that, for the want of documents and communications, their report must necessarily be incomplete. The standing committee on Missions have made no report. One of the members of that committee mentions that no Missionaries have been employed since the last meeting of General Synod. The treasurer has made no report of the state of the funds. Your committee would respectfully suggest, that the respective congregations be requested to continue their annual collections, and forward them to the treasurer of Synod. Your committee further report, that the Rev. John Duryea has made application to be employed by this Synod as a Missionary.

"W. ELTINGE,
"J. BRODHEAD,
"A. N. KITTLE,
"E. HUBBARD, } *Committee.*"

Resolved, That the Rev. John Duryea be referred to the standing committee on Missions.

Resolved, That the standing committee on Missions be continued; exceping that the Rev. Robert Bronk

be one of that committee in the place of the Rev. Jesse Fonda, who has removed within the bounds of the Particular Synod of New-York.

Resolved, That it be enjoined on the standing committee on Missions to make annual reports to the General Synod.

ARTICLE XIX.

Widows' Fund.

The committee appointed by General Synod, in 1813, to suggest a plan for a widows' fund, reported as follows:

"The committee appointed by General Synod, at its last meeting, to arrange, mature, and propose a plan for a widows' fund, for the benefit of the widows and children of deceased clergymen, beg leave to submit the following report, with the annexed plan of a constitution.

"Your committee regret that some plan has not heretofore been adopted, which might before this have been the means of raising a considerable fund for so important an object. Still the delay ought not to discourage us from proceeding, for further delays will give rise to new regrets. Your committee have found considerable difficulty in forming and arranging a plan for such a fund. The subject was to us a novel one, and books furnish but few helps. We have been, however, greatly assisted by the fundamental laws of a society in the Episcopal Church, established for the same purpose. That society is incorporated, and consequently has its funds secured by charter. If we should succeed in a similar plan, it would be of great importance to procure an act of incorporation either in the

state of New-York or New-Jersey. If this should be thought necessary, a committee should be appointed to procure an act of incorporation. The plan and constitution which we report, contemplate the formation of a society. It is desirable that this should be attended to, during the present session of Synod, that no unnecessary delays may take place. The following is the plan, which we would propose."

Constitution of

THE WIDOWS' FUND SOCIETY

Of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America.

Art. I. This society shall be known and distinguished by the name of "The Widows' Fund Society of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America."

Art. II. The object of this society shall be to assist the widows and children of deceased clerical members.

Art. III. There may be three classes of yearly contributors to the fund hereby to be raised, viz. ten, twenty, and thirty dollars. And no member shall change his class without the consent of the society at an annual meeting.

Art. IV. Any person who shall subscribe the constitution, or cause it to be subscribed for him by an authorized agent, and shall pay into the treasury, ten, twenty, or thirty dollars annually, shall be a member of the society.

Art. V. The officers of the society shall be a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and nine other persons; all of whom shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting, and shall form a board of trustees to manage the concerns of the society.

Art. VI. The society shall meet annually, during the session of General Synod, at the place of its meet-

ing on the evening of the second day after the opening of Synod. Ten members shall constitute a quorum of the society, and five of the board of trustees, for the transaction of business.

Art. VII. The yearly subscriptions, together with all donations and legacies, shall constitute a permanent fund. The interest of the fund shall also be added to the fund, when not appropriated to the objects for which the society is instituted.

Art. VIII. The annuities to be paid to the widows and children of deceased clerical members, shall be five times the sum of all their annual contributions, subject to the restrictions in the ninth article: Provided always, that the interest of the permanent fund will warrant it. In case the fund will not warrant it, the annuities shall be apportioned according to the fund, and the ratios established in the ninth article. But no annuity shall ever exceed 750 dolls. per ann.

Art. IX. The following shall be the ratios of annuities, viz. If the husband or father of any person or persons, entitled to an annuity on this plan, shall not have paid five annual contributions into the fund, then the widow and child or children shall be entitled only to ten per cent. per ann. for thirteen years, on the amount of the contributions paid by the deceased. If any contributor shall have paid for five years or any number of years over five and under fifteen, the annuitants shall receive only half the annuity which belongs to the rate or class to which the deceased belonged, until such time as the yearly deduction of half the annuity, added to the five or more payments made by the deceased, (without computing interest) shall together make a sum equal in the fund to the sum of fifteen annual pay-

ments in the rate or class to which such deceased contributor belonged. If fifteen or more annual payments have been made, then the annuity shall be complete according to Art. eighth.

Art. X. Every subscriber shall pay his annual contribution to the treasurer on or before the second day after the annual meeting of the General Synod, under the penalty of five mills in the dollar for every day's default: nor shall any annuity be paid until all dues are paid.

Art. XI. Every yearly clerical contributor, who shall marry oftener than once, shall pay one year's contribution extraordinary on every such marriage.

Art. XII. If there be a widow and no child or children, the widow shall receive the whole annuity, according to the ninth article, during her widowhood: but should she marry again, she shall receive only half such annuity during her natural life. If there be a child, and no widow, the child shall receive the whole annuity for thirteen years. If there be more than one child, and no widow, it shall be equally divided between them for thirteen years. If a widow and one child, the widow shall receive the half of the annuity during her widowhood; but if she marry again, only the fourth during her natural life: and the other half shall belong to the child for thirteen years. If a widow and more than one child, the widow shall receive one third of the annuity during her widowhood, and if she marry again, only one sixth during her natural life, and two thirds shall be equally divided among the children for thirteen years.

Art. XIII. The annuities of children shall be paid to the executors or guardians appointed by the father;

and in case the father shall have appointed none, then they shall be disposed of in such manner as the trustees of the society shall direct, for the benefit of such child or children.

Art. XIV. The society may, if they think proper, with the consent of the annuitants, or of their guardians, if they be minors, pay the child or children of subscribers such a sum in hand as shall be equal to the annuity of such child or children, according to the number of years for which such annuity should be paid, deducting legal interest, and taking into the account the chances against the life of such child or children, for the term such annuity is to be paid.

Art. XV. When executors or guardians shall be deemed incompetent by the trustees of the society, or be removed by death, the annuity of the child or children shall be disposed of for its or their benefit by the trustees.

Art. XVI. Congregations may subscribe for their Minister, and the annuity shall be paid to his widow and child or children as in other cases. Upon the settlement of another Minister, they may subscribe *de novo.*

Art. XVII. When some of the children are settled in life, their proportion shall be appropriated for the benefit of the minors. In case of the death of a child or children, if others remain, the annuity shall be appropriated for their benefit.

Art. XVIII. No contributor shall pay more than the amount of four annual contributions in any year. Up to that amount, his family shall have the benefit.

Art. XIX. It is understood that clergymen of other denominations may become contributors.

Art. XX. Any layman, who shall have contributed fifty dollars or more to the funds shall be an honorary member of the society.

Art. XXI. The funds of the society shall be invested, in the name of the treasurer, either in the funded debt of the United States, or in loans secured by mortgages on unincumbered real estate.

Art. XXII. Two thirds of the members present at an annual meeting, shall be competent to alter any articles in this constitution, which does not destroy any essential principle.

Art. XXIII. The treasurer shall pay no annuity without an order of the board of trustees, signed by the president: but he may invest whatever money he may at any time have in hand.

John M. Bradford,
Cornelius C. Cuyler,
Abraham Van Vechten, } *Committee.*

Resolved, That the Rev. Messrs. Cuyler, Eltinge, and Hardenbergh, and the Elders, Messrs. Vroom and Van Ness, be a committee to digest and report a plan for carrying the above report into immediate operation.

This committee reported; and their report was recommitted. They again reported: "That from the attention which they have been able to give to the plan, it appears to them to be a good one, calculated in its operations to be eventually of great benefit to the widows and children of deceased clergymen. Your committee would therefore recommend the following resolutions:

"*Resolved,* That the reported plan be adopted, inserted in the minutes, and recommended for subscription.

"*Resolved*, That the first thirteen subscribers shall be the first board of trustees; the officers to be chosen by the first board of trustees.

"CORNELIUS C. CUYLER, *Chairman*."

Resolved, That the above report be ADOPTED.

ARTICLE XX.

Particularia.

The stated clerk reported as follows:

"The stated clerk who was authorized to make a selection of rules and orders, to submit to General Synod, begs leave to report, that he has not been able to make any collection which he deemed superior to the one heretofore submitted. He would respectfully suggest that a committee be appointed upon this subject, who shall report to the present Synod; and, their selection, having obtained the approbation of Synod, be ordered to be printed with the minutes of the present session. Some expenses have been incurred in the transcription of rules and orders, the memorial of the Classis of Ulster, and in the distribution of minutes. The stated clerk wishes to be informed if the Synod will order payment. New-York, 13th June, 1814.

"JOHN M. BRADFORD."

The Rev. Messrs. Hardenbergh and Labagh, and the Elder Mr. Van Rensselaer, were appointed a committee to make and report to this Synod, a selection of rules and orders.

This committee reported the following resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the stated clerk be, and he is hereby requested to annex, to the printed minutes of this session of General Synod, those rules and church orders which he may have transcribed.

"C. HARDENBERGH, *Chairman*."

Resolved, That the above be ADOPTED.

An application was made by Mr. John H. Carle, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Geneva, who had agreed to accept a call from the congregations of Marbletown and Hurley, for a dispensation in his favor, with respect to the Hebrew language.

Resolved, That the said licentiate be and is hereby referred to the Classis of Ulster, who are hereby invested with a discretionary power in regard to the subject of his request.

A trunk, containing, as supposed, papers belonging to the General Synod, was produced. Ordered that the stated clerk examine the same, and report what are its contents, to the General Synod at their next stated meeting.

ARTICLE XXI.

Questorate.

The special treasurer of General Synod made the following report :

Dr. General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in account current with Isaac L. Kip, their Special Treasurer, *Cr.*

Cr. October 27th, 1813,	By balance rendered,			$620 40
Dr. November 17th,	To cash paid Staats Van Deusen, treasurer of Queen's College,			620 40
Cr. 1813.				.....
Nov. 23,	By Cash pr. Rev. Dr. Bassett, collected at Bushwick,			$15 00
Dec. 20,	Mr. Cornelison, Bergen,			11 37
1814.				
Jan'y. 6,	Mr. Lowe,	Flatbush & Flatlands,		25 50
April 14,	D. S. Bogart,	Success & Oysterbay,		13 08
27,	Mr. Schoonmaker,	Gravesend,		9 00
	Mr. Gunn,	Bloomingdale,		22 75
May 4,	Mr. Eltinge,	Tappan,	$4 40	23 51
		Paramus,	11 00	
		Warnick,	8 11	
9,	Mr. J. Schoonmaker	Jamaica,	22 31	34 31
		Newtown,	12 00	

June, 1,	Mr. C. T. Demarest,	English neighborhood,	10 50
9,	C. C. Cuyler,	Poughkeepsie,	34 00
	H. Vedder,	Greenbush, Taghanack & Linlithgow,	36 57
	J. Schureman,	Questor N. Brunswick Classis,	160 00
10	C. D. Westbrook,	collected at Fishkill,	17 50
13	Dr. Bradford,	Albany,	125 00
		Due General Synod,	$538 09

New-York, 14 June, 1814. Errors excepted.

ISAAC L. KIP, Special Treasurer.

The treasurer of the Missionary Fund reported as follows:

Dr. The Rev. Synod (Missionary account) with John H. Sickles, *Cr.*

Cr.	1813.			
May	3,	By balance of account this date,	$20 58	
	4,	By cash from church at Bergen,	17 50	
	29,	Stonehouse Plains,	4 28	
	16,	Clarkstown,	4 00	
Sept.	29,	Aquakinack,	7 37	
Oct.	15,	Schraalenburgh,	12 52	
Nov.	15,	Classis of Brunswick,	200 00	
Dec.	21,	Church at Tappan,	8 31	
	1814.			
June	20,	Hackensack,	7 87	
April	8,	Totowaugh,	2 9	
				$284 52

Dr.	1813.			
Oct.	13,	To cash paid Rev. Mr. Labagh,	$100 00	
	1814.			
Feb.	11.	Dr. Bradford, & postage,	86 44	
		Mr Garret Conine,	25 56	
		Commission on $264 52, 5 pr. ct.	13 20	
		Balance to new account,	59 32	
				$284 52

Errors excepted. May 2d, 1814. JOHN H. SICKLES.

These accounts were referred to the Rev. Mr. Stryker, and the Elders Messrs. Vroom and Hubbard, to audit the same, who reported "That they have examined the accounts laid before the Synod, and find them correct. P. STRYKER, *Chairman.*"

Resolved, That the above report be adopted.

Resolved, That the Questor pay the expenses incurred by the stated clerk, amounting to five dollars, by the delegates to the German Synod, amounting to forty dollars, and by the commissioners of General Synod to the Ulster Classis, amounting to thirty-one dollars.

The doorkeeper presented his account amounting to seventeen dollars two and an half cents.

Resolved, That the Questor pay the same.

ARTICLE XXII.

Pastoral Letter.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Resumption and Close.

Resolved, That the minutes of the present session of General Synod be entirely conformed to the list of Lemmata.

The minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the stated clerk publish, and distribute among the churches, one thousand copies of the minutes of this Synod, duly authenticated.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Adjournment.

Synod adjourned, to meet in the city of Albany, on the first Tuesday of June, A. D. 1815.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *President.*
ISAAC LABAGH, *Adsessor.*
S. S. WOODHULL, } *Clerks.*
A. N. KITTLE, }

Official copy from the original minutes.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Stated Clerk.*

APPENDIX.

Session of General Synod, 1814.

THE Rev. Messrs. Hardenbergh and Labagh, and the Elder, Mr. Van Rensselaer, were appointed a committee to make and report to this Synod a selection of Rules and Orders.

The committee reported the following resolution :

Resolved, That the stated clerk be and he is hereby requested to annex to the printed minutes of this session of General Synod, those Rules and Church Orders, that he may have transcribed.

C. HARDENBERGH, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the above be ADOPTED.

RULES AND ORDERS.

Session of General Synod, 1794.

THE General Synod resolved, that for the future their minutes shall be kept in the English language, and that such minutes be considered as original and authentic.

Resolved, by the Synod, That Professor Livingston is appointed to procure and take into custody, all the books which have been lodged with the Rev. Dr. H. Meyer, for the use of the students in Divinity, and report at the next General Synod a catalogue of said books, together with those which he may have in his possession : That students under the care of the Rev.

Dr. Romeyn and the Rev. Solomon Frælígh have access to said books, and the use of them, upon application to the professor, and that the teachers of theology be accountable for such books as their students respectively use.

DEPUTATI SYNODI.

It being properly the business of Particular Synod to appoint their *Deputati*; and some difficulties frequently occurring in obtaining one or other *Deputatus* to attend the examination of students or candidates, which difficulties might be removed by adding a *Secundus* to each, who, in case of the inability of the *Deputatus* shall be held to perform his duty; provided, however, that no *Secundus* be admitted unless the *Primarius* is absent, and that this mode be recommended to be observed in future by the Particular Synod.

DUTY OF CANDIDATES.

Synod taking into consideration the preaching of candidates licensed by Classis in congregations not subject to the licensing classis, also the necessity that some limitation be made in respect to the time which ought to be allowed a candidate for considering any call presented to him, did resolve, that every candidate licensed by a Classis shall be subjected to the resolutions of the last preceding Synod respecting the supplies ordered for the vacant congregations, of which resolutions he shall be informed by the president, and should he remain a candidate at the next ordinary meeting of Synod, shall appear before the Synod and render an account of his obedience to the said resolutions; and it is ordered that such candidate, whether he be in the actual fulfilment of the directions of Synod respecting the

vacant congregations to be supplied, or to be proceeding at his own direction to preach in any other place, he shall, upon coming within the bounds of another Classis apply immediately to the president of such Classis for the time being, to obtain from him proper directions respecting the particular vacancies within the same, and shall consider it his duty to supply such vacancies as speedily as possible. And further, for the sake of uniformity, and to bring the candidates who may be licensed by the Synod upon the same footing with those who are licensed by a Classis, it is ordered, that upon obtaining license from the Synod, the candidate shall apply to the next session of the Classis under whose district his ordinary place of residence may then be, and have himself registered, and put himself under the care and superintendence of the same, in all respects, as far as if he had been examined and licensed by such Classis. And lastly, that any candidate receiving a call, shall be held to declare his decision on the same, at the next meeting of the Classis under which such congregation belongs, or at the next meeting of Particular Synod, or otherwise ask further time of consideration.

MONIES ARISING FROM EXAMINATIONS.

Resolved, That the president of every Classis be accountable to the Questor of the General Synod, for all such monies as may from time to time come to his hands, arising from the examinations of students in theology, or candidates for the office of the ministry, and forward the same with all convenient speed to said Questor.

[*The Minutes of General Synod in their session in* 1797, *are not recorded, and are not to be found.*]

Session of General Synod, 1800 *and* 1806.

RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GENERAL SYNOD IN THEIR PROCEEDINGS.

1st. At every stated meeting of the Synod a sermon shall be preached by the last president, either before his opening the session with prayer, or at some time afterwards, which the Synod shall deem most convenient. If the last president and the adsessor be absent, the oldest minister present shall take his place and perform the above duties.

2d. The president and an adsessor shall be elected by ballot. Two clerks shall be elected by the same ballot and in the same manner.

3d. The duties of the president shall be to take the chair at the hour to which the Synod stands adjourned; to open and conclude with prayer; to direct the clerk immediately after a quorum has appeared, and prayer been performed, to call the roll; to censure absentees, when their absence shall be judged not to have been necessary; to propound the subjects for deliberation; to confine speakers to the point, and save them from unnecessary interruption; to state and put the question, when the members are prepared to vote; to prevent members from leaving the Synod without permission; to decide questions of order, subject, however, to an appeal to the house by any two members; to give the casting vote in all equal divisions; and in general to maintain that order and dignity becoming the judicatory of the church of Christ.

4th. After calling the roll, the minutes of the last sitting shall be read, and considered as open to correction. The business on the minutes of the last meeting or sitting, shall, without powerful reasons, be taken up and concluded first in the order in which it stands, before any new business be introduced.

5th. A motion made must be seconded and afterwards repeated or read aloud from the chair, before it is debated, and every motion, except a motion for adjournment, shall be reduced to writing, if any member require it.

6th. An amendment may be made on any motion, and shall be decided before the original motion; but when a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, unless to amend it, to commit it for the previous question, or to adjourn. If a question contains several parts, any member may have it divided, and a question taken on each part. When the previous question is called for, and which shall be in this form, "Shall the main question be now put," until this be decided, all amendments and further debate on the main question shall be inadmissible.

7th. A question shall not be called up or reconsidered at the same session of the Synod, at which it has been decided, unless by consent of two thirds of the members present.

8th. The votes on any question shall not be recorded unless it be required by one third of the members present.

9th. Any member who may think himself aggrieved by a decision of the Synod, shall have his dissent or protest, with the reasons, entered on the records of the Synod, or filed among the papers, if given in before the rising of the Synod.

10th. Every speaker shall rise, and address himself to the president only, closely attending to the subject in debate, avoiding all personal reflections, and no member, without the special permission of the Synod, shall speak more than twice on the same subject. When two or more members rise to speak at the same time, the president shall determine who of them shall be heard first.

11th. No member shall leave the Synod to return home, or for other business, without their consent; nor shall members without express permission engage in private conversation, go from or change their seats, during the transaction of business; interrupt another when he is speaking, except he be out of order, or to correct mistakes and misrepresentations; and if any member act indecently or disorderly, contrary to these rules, the president shall reprove or otherwise censure him, as the Synod shall judge proper; the member still having the privilege, if he think himself denied of any right, or unjustly blamed by the president, of respectfully and modestly requiring the decision of the house in the case.

Resolved, That these articles be read at the opening of every General Synod.

ORGANIZATION OF SYNOD.

The committee appointed to form arrangements to constitute a number of new Classes and a new Particular Synod, reported:

That the following new arrangements with respect to the Classes of Albany, Kingston and Hackensack, ought to take place, viz.

1st. That the Classis of Albany be divided into three Classes, to be known and distinguished by the names following, and each consisting of the different congregations subjoined :

I. The Classis of Rensselaer to consist of the congregations of Kinderhook, Greenbush, Schaghticoke, Schodack, Wynantskill and Teashook, Pittstown, Lansingburgh, Middletown, Sinkhoick, Stillwater, Cliftonpark, Waterford and Saratoga.

II. The Classis of Albany to consist of the congregations of Albany, Baisic, Salem, Bethlehem, Nestiguana, Hellebergh, Coeymans, Schenectady, Beaverdam, Coxsackie, Jerusalem, Woestyno and Boght. The churches formed in Canada, until they are sufficiently numerous for a separate Classis, to be annexed to the Classis of Albany.

III. The Classis of Montgomery to consist of the congregations of Remsensbush, Schoharie Kill, Mayfield, Charlestown, Germanflatts, Stonearabia, Sharon, Herkimer, Canajoharie, Lower Schoharie, Snellsbush, Caughnawaga, Upper Schoharie, Andriestown, Owasco Lake, Duanesburgh, Coenradstown, Chukonot, Curriestown, Chenango, Amsterdam, New-Rhinebeck, Sacondaga, and Fonda's Bush.

2d. That the Classis of Kingston be divided into two Classes, to be known and distinguished by the names following, and each consisting of the congregations subjoined :

I. The Classis of Poughkeepsie to consist of the congregations of Claverack, Stissick, Fishkill, East Camp, Old Stissick, New-Hackensack, Linlithgow, Redhook, Hopewell, Taghanack, Rhinebeck, Dover, Poughkeepsie, and Rhinebeckflatts.

II. The Classis of Ulster to consist of the congregations of Montgomery, Bloomingdale, Rochester, Shawangunk, Kleyn Esopus, Saugerties, Oakhill, New-Paltz, Warwarsing, Woodstock, Kingston, Catskill, New-Hurley, Marbletown, Shohan, and Paghhatghkan.

3d. The Classis of Hackensack to be divided into two Classes, to be known and distinguished by the names following, and to consist of the congregations subjoined, to wit:

I. The Classis of Paramus to consist of the congregations of Tappan, Schraalenburgh, Ramepaugh, New-Hempsted, Hackensack, Paramus, Clarkstown, Kakijat, Uquackenunck, and Totawa.

II. The Classis of Bergen to consist of the congregations of Schraalenburgh, Bergen, English Neighborhood, Hackensack, Horseneck, Ponds, Second-River, Pompton, and Boontown.

The Classes of New-York and New-Brunswick to remain as before.

Your committee farther report, that these Classes ought to be divided into two Particular Synods, whose names and Classes shall be as follows:

I. The Particular Synod of New-York to include the Classes of New-York, New-Brunswick, Paramus, Bergen and Poughkeepsie.

II. The Particular Synod of Albany to comprehend the Classes of Ulster, Albany, Rensselaer, and Montgomery.

In the last place, your committee report that a delegation of eight Ministers and eight Elders from each Particular Synod shall, until such time as the state of the church will admit of the arrangement specified in the constitution, constitute the General Synod of this church; provided, that in such delegations no more than

two Ministers and two Elders, shall be taken from the same Classis.

This report was read and approved of by Synod.

On motion, *Resolved*, That ten Ministers and ten Elders, delegated as aforesaid to constitute a General Synod, shall, when met, be considered as forming, according to the constitution, a quorum for business.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Particular Synods in the choice of the delegates to the General Synod shall not be permitted to appoint from their own body more than one fourth of the members which they are authorised to send.

MISSIONARY COLLECTIONS.

Ordered, That collections be continued to be annually made in all the congregations under the care of this General Synod, and transmitted to the treasurer of Synod for the support of Missionaries.

Ordered, That the Minister of that congregation in which General Synod hold their ordinary or extraordinary meeting, have the Lord's Supper administered on the Lord's day immediately following the day of said meeting, that so the members of Synod may have an opportunity of joining in the celebration of that holy ordinance.

DISMISSION OF MINISTERS.

For the regular obtaining of dismissions when a Minister has received and accepted a call from another place, it is required that a neighboring Minister of the same Classis to which the congregation belongs, be invited to be present, and superintend the dismission of the Minister from his congregation, countersign the instrument of dismission, and consider it as his duty to deliver the same, with a report upon the subject, to the

Classis, which report and document shall serve as a basis upon which the final dismission and certificate of the Classis shall be founded.

THE RIGHT OF PROTESTING.

With respect to cases in which the members of any inferior judicatory may judge a defect of such a nature to exist, as to render the judicatory unconstitutional, it shall be lawful for such members to enter their protest, expressing the reasons of their dissent; but they may not oppose the decision of the majority, by withdrawing from the judicatory; their protest, however, shall shield them from any consequences that may arise from the procedure of such judicatory. Should protesting members take upon themselves to withdraw, the judicatory, from the principle of self preservation, which every society enjoys, possesses a power of inflicting due punishment; and in order to ascertain the degree of such punishment, it is recommended that every inferior judicatory shall form rules for that purpose, to which all the members shall be subjected: if, however, in the prosecution of such case, any protesting and absenting member considers him or themselves aggrieved, a right of appeal is possessed to the next higher judicatory, where the dispute shall be decided.

COMBINED CALLS.

When a call is presented to Classis for approbation, from congregations, who are combined, and such combination in the judgment of Classis, be improper, the approbation must be withdrawn.

MODE OF CALLING EXTRA MEETINGS OF GENERAL SYNOD.

Resolved, That if circumstances should require a meeting of the General Synod, previous to the next ordinary meeting, the president be and he is hereby authorised, on a joint application of six or more Ministers, requesting the same, to call an extraordinary meeting at the place where the next ordinary meeting appointed is to be held.

Session of General Synod, 1803.

ADVISORY MEMBERS.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Ministers of the Low Dutch Reformed Church, attending this Synod, shall be permitted to sit as advisory members.

Session of General Synod, 1804.

THE SUBJECTS OF BAPTISM.

A committee reported, which report was adopted :

1st. That the right or privilege of infant baptism doth not rest upon what is called full communion, nor is the partaking of the Lord's Supper by one or both of the parents, an indispensable test for admitting infants to be baptised in the Reformed Dutch Church.

2d. That in avoiding one extreme, which straitens admission into the church of Christ by making a test not commanded in the word of God, it is necessary to watch against the opposite evil, which makes no distinction between the pure and vile, and which by an indiscriminate administration to all who apply, relaxes Christian discipline, and prostitutes the sacred ordinance of baptism : The General Synod, therefore, recommend and enjoin, that when both the parents openly profess such errors or heresies, or are chargeable with such im-

moralities and improper conduct as ought, if they were in full communion, to exclude them from the table of the Lord, they shall not during such apostacy, in doctrines or manners, be permitted to present their infants to baptism; but shall be denied that privilege until they profess repentance, and shew amendment. When one of the parents shall be thus guilty, and the other is a decent and peaceable professor of the religion of Jesus Christ, the infant shall be baptised at the request and upon the right of the professing parent, who alone shall stand and present the child. And, lastly, where the minister, and one or more of the elders, find great ignorance in the parents, and such a want of knowledge in the first principles of our holy religion, as to render them unfit to make a public profession of their faith, it shall be their duty to withhold them for a time, notwithstanding their decent moral conduct and profession, and frequently and affectionately instruct them previous to their admission to the ordinance, that thus, if possible, the confession and vows at the baptism of their infants may be made with knowledge, sincerity and truth.

MODE OF BRINGING UP APPEALS, &c.

Protests being the acknowledged privilege of the minority in any judicature, whereby they exonerate themselves from what they conceive to be an unjustifiable decision of the majority, cannot be taken up by that or any higher judicature, as the ground of judicial inquiry, consistently with the established discipline, and according to the uniform practice of the Reformed Dutch Church. Any individual conceiving himself to be personally aggrieved or injured by the decision of a lower judicature, may appeal therefrom to the judgment of an

higher judicature, and any lower judicature, as a Consistory or Classis esteeming itself aggrieved by the judgment or censure of an higher, enjoys the same privilege; but in such case the appeal must be made by the judicature, as such, when regularly convened, and not by any individuals belonging to it. The appeal of individuals must be made during the session of the judicature, at which the decision appealed from is made, but they have the privilege of a reasonable time for drawing up their reasons of appeal, to be delivered to the president, before the next meeting of the judicature, to which the appeal is to be referred.

The appeal of a Consistory or Classis may be made after the decision of the judicature, at which the decision appealed from was given, but it must be made known, and the reasons of it stated in writing to the president, a reasonable length of time before the next meeting of the higher judicature, to which the appeal is made. If the appellant give notice and satisfactory reasons to the president of the judicature to which the appeal is made, that he cannot attend at their next stated meeting, his appeal shall lie over to their next following stated meeting, but if no such notice and reason be given, and he does not appear to prosecute his appeal, it shall be considered as relinquished.

In cases of references from lower to higher judicatures, for advice and direction, the references shall be presented in the form of a resolution of the judicature, making the same, stating distinctly the whole subject matter of the reference, which resolution shall be certified by the president of the lower judicature, and all such references, in cases of discipline shall be governed by the rules which have been or may be adopted relative to appeals, so far as the same may be applicable.

COMMITTEE OF MISSIONS.

On motion, *Resolved*, That four Ministers and four Elders of the Albany Synod be appointed a committee on Missions, and that the following gentlemen compose this committee, viz. Rev. Dr. Linn, Messrs. Bork, Zabriskie and Bradford, Ministers, and Messrs. Abraham Van Vechten, John N. Bleecker, Leonard Gansevoort, Jun. and Aaron Van Dyck, Elders. *Resolved*,

1st. That the committee now appointed, shall be known and distinguished by the name and style of the Standing Committee of Missions for the Reformed Dutch Church in America.

2d. That this committee shall continue in office until the next ordinary meeting of General Synod.

3d. That this committee shall be organized for the transaction of their business, by their choosing one of their members for a president, and appointing a clerk, who shall keep all their records, acts and minutes of proceeding.

4th. That this committee shall also appoint a treasurer, in whose hands shall be placed all monies collected, or otherwise obtained, for missionary purposes, which treasurer shall always be subject to the order of said committee.

5th. That the committee immediately enter upon the duties of their office, and for that purpose be authorised to call upon the Classis of Albany, or their treasurer, for such papers, information or balances of accounts and monies, as may be in the hands of said Classis or treasurer, and to receive and solely keep the same; and also to call upon J. H. Sickles, Questor of the General Synod, to exhibit a statement of such missionary monies as have been, or now may remain, in his hands,

which monies the committee may draw from the Questor at their discretion.

6th. That it shall be the duty of this committee to exhibit at any ordinary session of General Synod a precise and accurate account of all monies by them received and expended for missionary purposes; and in order to produce the highest satisfaction respecting their exertions and proceedings, the book of their minutes and acts shall lay upon the table of General Synod, for the inspection of all the members, during the session.

7th. To give satisfaction to the churches and members who contribute to the missionary work, during the recess of General Synod, it is also enjoined on the committee to make a just statement of their proceedings, and furnish the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany, at their respective ordinary sessions, with an authenticated copy of such statement.

Lastly, ordered, That each member of the committee be served with a copy of these resolutions.

POWERS OF THE DEPUTATI SYNODI.

On the question from the minutes of the Synod of Albany, respecting the powers with which the Deputati Synodi are invested, it was resolved, that the immediate object for which Deputati are appointed, is to superintend the examination of students in theology, and candidates for the ministry, to add a solemnity to the important work, and to see that no undue liberty, superficial proceedings, or unnecessary rigor be practised.

That the Deputati, in their character as commissioners of the Synod, may and ought to advise, exhort and endeavor to persuade the Classis in what respects the strict fulfilment of the important duty of examinations; but they are not invested with any authority to arrest

the proceedings of any Classis who may proceed contrary to their advice, neither may they vote upon any question respecting any candidate that may be examined, but they are to keep regular minutes of their proceedings at their different examinations where they are present, and impartially report to the Synod whatever they may judge improper or wrong.

THE MODE OF RECEIVING MINISTERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS, AND FROM FOREIGN NATIONS.

The committee appointed on the subject of receiving ministers from other denominations, and from foreign nations, report, that in their opinion existing circumstances require great circumspection and care upon this subject, on the part of our Consistories and Classes, and do therefore recommend the following particulars, viz.

1st. With respect to ministers of other denominations in this country, whose characters and standing are not known, that the Synod direct and enjoin it upon the Consistories of vacant congregations not to invite or permit them to preach within their bounds, without first receiving from them a certificate, of recent date, of their regular authority for that purpose, and their good standing; and in all doubtful cases, wherein they feel themselves incompetent to decide, to consult some neighboring minister before an invitation be preferred.

2d. With respect to foreigners, who claim the privilege of preaching the Gospel, your committee recommend that no Consistory be permitted to invite any one of them, of whatever denomination, to preach, before he shall lay his credentials before the Classis to which

such Consistory is subordinate, and be regularly accepted and authorised by them to exercise his ministry within their bounds; and that no Classis be permitted to receive and accredit such foreign minister, unless he produce to them, besides ample and regular certificates of his license or ordination, and of his dismission and recommendations, of recent date, from the competent church judicature, letters of recommendation, also, from some known respectable character, in the country from which he has emigrated, to his correspondent in this country, stating the authenticity of his credentials, and the good character and standing of the bearer, as a minister of the Gospel, and that he is an advocate of the doctrines of grace professed by the Reformed Church; and further, that in all doubtful cases the Classis be requested to refer the matter for advice to the Particular Synod, before they proceed to accept the applicant.

Session of General Synod, 1807.

COVENANT BETWEEN THE SYNOD AND THE TRUSTEES, RESPECTING QUEEN'S COLLEGE AND THE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL.

The committee appointed to confer with the committee of trustees of Queen's College, have, in conference with the last named committee, unanimously agreed to the following articles; and your committee do accordingly recommend them to the adoption of General Synod.

It is mutually covenanted and agreed, by the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in America, on the one part, and the Trustees of Queen's College, on the other:

1st. That in the plan for the revival of said College,

they will employ their efforts to combine its literary interests with a decided support to Evangelical truth, and the promotion of a faithful and able ministry in the Dutch Church.

2d. That all the monies raised by the trustees of Queen's College, in the state of New-Jersey, shall, (agreeably to the proposal of said trustees) be a fund exclusively appropriated to the support of a Theological Professorship in the College, and to the assistance of poor and pious young men, who are desirous of entering into the Gospel ministry, under the patronage of the Dutch Church, as represented in the General Synod.

3d. That all monies which may have been raised for the professorship, under the injunction of the General Synod, of 1806, be deposited in the hands of the trustees of Queen's College, for the purpose expressed in the second article, and the persons appointed to raise contributions for the professorship, shall stay their proceedings till the success of said trustees be ascertained.

4th. The trustees of Queen's College shall call no professors of theology, but such as shall be nominated and chosen by the General Synod, agreeably to the resolutions and arrangements formed in General Synod, in 1804, respecting the permanent professorship, which is hereby located at Brunswick.

5th. As soon as the trustees shall have obtained a fund, the interest of which will yield a competent support to the Theological Professor, of which competency, whenever any difficulties or doubts may arise, the contracting parties shall judge and determine, the trustees shall be bound without delay to call the professor appointed by the Synod, and they shall, and hereby do

request their professor, as soon as he shall have received such call, to make arrangements forthwith for entering upon the duties of his office.

6th. That a permanent board shall be appointed by the Synod to superintend the Theological institution, to assist the professor in arranging the course of instruction, to attend the examinations of the students in theology, previous to their examination for licensure before Classis, to be known by the style of the superintendants of the Theological institution, in Queen's College, and to be recognized as such by the trustees of said College.

7th. The Synod agree to provide money for the purchase of a Theological library, and for the purpose of erecting a Theological Hall; or to contribute their proportion to the erecting such building or buildings as may be designed for the joint accommodation of the library and Theological departments of the College; provided the sum do not amount to more than would be necessary for erecting a separate building for the professoral hall; and in order to carry into effect this article, the Synod will have a collection taken up in each of the congregations under their care, and should this fail, or prove incompetent, then the trustees shall take the requisite sum from the fund which they may have raised for the professorate.

Session of General Synod, 1809.

COMMITTEE OF MISSIONS.

The Synod invests the committee of missions with power to supply any vacancy which may happen in that body by death or otherwise, by their own vote, during the recess of General Synod.

PLAN FOR THE NEW ORGANIZATION OF GENERAL SYNOD.

As the inconvenienes arising from the present organization, arise principally from two sources, viz. Smallness of numbers, and mode of delegation ; your committee recommend the subsequent arrangement as a remedy :

1st. With regard to numbers : The General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America shall consist of three ministers and three elders from each Classis.

2d. With regard to the mode of delegation : That the delegates to the General Synod shall be appointed by the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany. In order, however, to avoid the inconveniences arising from the appointment of members, it is hereby recommended that each of the Particular Synods request their respective Classes, at the last session immediately preceding the meeting of General Synod, to recommend such of their Classical members, who, upon inquiry, it shall be found convenient to attend ; and on such recommendation, if the Particular Synod approve thereof, to appoint the same, or such others as they think proper.

3d. That any ten ministers and ten elders, when met by proper delegation, shall form a constitutional quorum.

4th. That in order to avoid disappointments originating from pecuniary considerations, it is further recommended to the Particular Synods to enjoin it on their respective Classes, to make suitable provisions for defraying the expenses of their delegates.

Your committee conceive that by the above arrange-

ments, the inconveniences arising from the necessity of numbers, and the present mode of delegation, will be obviated. And if the above plan should be approved, they recommend the same, through the medium of Particular Synods, to the different Classes, for their consent, which, if obtained at the next ordinary session of General Synod, shall then be adopted as the future mode of delegation.

STATISTICAL ACCOUNTS.

Resolved, That it be enjoined, through the medium of Particular Synods and the several Classes, upon the several Consistories, to present annually to the respective Classes, a statistical account of their congregations; and also an account of vital religion throughout their societies; which account is to be communicated, thro' the Particular Synod, to this body at their ordinary sessions.

CHURCH SCHOOLS.

The following report of the committee appointed by the Classis of New-York on the subject of schools, and by that body adopted, was also adopted by this Synod.

" In the constitution of the church of Christ the education of children is considered as an object of primary importance, and must, therefore, be made the basis of every plan for the promulgation of her doctrines, the preservation of her purity, and the extension of her limits. Those who are born within her pale, or of baptised parents, are members or constituent parts of her visible body. She is, by the appointment of God formally signified to Abraham, their moral parent. The baptism of each one of them is a sacrament not only to the parents who dedicate them to God, but also to the church of believers, designed to seal anew the original

promise of the covenant made to Abraham, the father of the faithful. These children, which are in this solemn rite devoted to God, are at the same time given up to the care of the church. She receives them into her bosom, adopts them into her family, unites them in the pledge given by the parents, to pray for them, and to train them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and as bound to extend her inspection to all the sources of instruction, the family, the school, and the house of God. So far as your committee have had it in their power to examine, they find that this constitution was recognized in the days of Apostolical purity ; adopted by the churches of Geneva, France, Holland, and fully acted upon by the Belgic churches, and expressly recognized by the constitution and explanation thereof by our Reformed Churches in America.

In conformity to this, it is expressly decreed by the last Synod of Dort, in session 17th, that there should be observed a threefold method of catechising, viz.

1st. Domestic, by Parents,

2d. Scholastic, by Schoolmasters.

3d. Ecclesiastic, by Pastors, Elders, Readers, or Visitors of the sick.

And that all whose duty it is to visit and inspect the churches and schools, shall be admonished to make this the first object of their care.

To carry this plan into effect, so far as respects the second method of instruction, there was made another decree, which comprises the following resolutions :

1st. Schools for the education of children and youth, shall be established wherever they may be found necessary.

2d. Provision shall be made for procuring and maintaining suitable teachers.

3d. The children of the poor must be provided for in these schools, or in others, expressly for them.

4th. No person shall be appointed to the charge of these schools, who is not a member of the Reformed Church, furnished with testimonials of his orthodoxy and good morals, and who shall not previously have subscribed the confession of faith, the Belgic catechism, and solemnly promised to instruct the children committed to his care, in the principles contained in the church standards.

5th. They shall, according to the age or capacity of the children, employ two half days in every week, not only in hearing them repeat, but assisting them to understand their catechism: Shall examine them frequently, inculcate upon them the necessity of regular attendance upon the ordinances of religion, accompany them to these ordinances, and promote their benefit from them.

6th. To promote fidelity in the teachers, and progress in the children, it shall be the duty of the Pastors and Elders, frequently to visit these schools; to direct and encourage the teachers in the method of catechising; to examine the children with mild severity, and to excite them to industry, by holy exhortations, by commendations and suitable rewards.

Such is the construction which our forefathers put upon the constitution of the church of Christ; and we must be at a loss whether more to admire their wisdom and fidelity, or to lament our languor and degeneracy in this point.

A close adherence to a system like this, so far as means are connected with their end, is calculated to raise the visible church to as high perfection as this earth admits. It is the system of complete organization, which promotes the unity, forms, while it preserves, the habits, combines the efforts, increases the strength, and pours moral health into the fountains of society. In the neglect of this system, it is impossible that any society can so fully preserve the spirit of the body, and preserve its infant members from corruption, indifference or alienation.

Whilst, therefore, it may be difficult to carry it into effect, it is surely worthy of the attempt, and your committee would recommend the following resolutions:

1st. That it be recommended to each Consistory to divide the congregation into as many districts as there may be schools required, and that respectable and influential men be associated, under the direction of the Consistory, as trustees for the school in each district.

2d. That it shall be the duty of these trustees to look out for suitable schoolmasters, and examine the qualifications of such as may apply, and take all proper measures to provide such support and accommodations, as will secure for these stations, men of sound principles and competent attainments.

3d. That the trustees, or a committee of them, visit the school of their district, once every month, to carry into effect, as far as circumstances will permit, the 6th article in the preamble to this report; and that they be particularly careful to engage the teacher to instruct his pupils in the doctrines of the Reformation, confining the children of the Reformed Church to their own standards.

4th. That the Pastor of the congregation be, *ex officio*, chairman of each district committee, when he may find it convenient to attend; and that he visit the several district schools in rotation, as frequently as possible: That at their first meeting they choose a chairman for one year, whose duty it shall be to call them together, as often as circumstances require, and to pay special attention to the monthly visitation.

[*After the session of Synod, in* 1809, *the whole of the minutes have been printed, which supercedes the necessity of making any farther extracts from the minutes concerning Rules and Church Orders.*]

THE

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD,

OF THE

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH

IN

North America,

AT ALBANY, JUNE, 1815.

ALBANY:

PRINTED BY RYER SCHERMERHORN,

No. 28, State-Street.

1815.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, convened in the city of Albany, on Tuesday, the sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen. The Session continued from the sixth day of June to the fifteenth day of June.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Opening of the Synod.

The Synod was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, the president of the last General Synod, who preached on Wednesday evening a Synodical Sermon, on Acts iv. 32.

ARTICLE II.

Members Present.

From the Particular Synod of New-York.

1. *From the Classis of New-York.*

Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, James M. Mathews,‡ and Stephen N. Rowan.

Elders, Messrs. William W. Gilbert,* James Striker, and Egbert Benson, L. L. D.

2. *From the Classis of Bergen.*

Rev. James V. C. Romeyn, Cornelius T. Demarest,‡‡ and John Demarest.†

‡ Obtained leave of absence on the 7th day of the session; and the Rev. S. S. Woodhull took his seat as secundus.

* Obtained leave of absence on the 6th day of the session.

‡‡ Obtained leave of absence on the 8th day of the session; and the Rev. Staats Van Santvoord took his seat as secundus.

† Appeared on the third day of the session.

Elder, Mr. John Van Voorhees.†

3. *From the Classis of New-Brunswick.*

Rev. John Schureman, Jesse Fonda, and John L. Zabriskie.

Elders, Ryneer Veghte, Henry Van Arsdalen, and Matthias Lane.

4. *From the Classis of Paramus.*

Rev. Dr. Solomon Frælich,§ John I. Christie,‡ and James Demarest.

Elders, Messrs. David Demarest,§ and Garret Sarvan.

5. *From the Classis of Long Island.*

Rev. Dr. John Bassett,* and Peter I. Van Pelt.

Elder, Mr. Peter Wyckoff.*‡.

6. *From the Classis of Philadelphia.*

Rev. Jacob Brodhead, Jacob Larzalere, and Peter Labagh.

Elders, Messrs. Frederick Erringer,‡ and Derick Kreuster.

From the Particular Synod of Albany.

1. *From the Classis of Poughkeepsie.*

Rev. John Gosman and Herman Vedder.†

Elder, Mr. Henry H. Schoonmaker.

2. *From the Classis of Albany.*

Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, John De Witt, and Robert Bronk.

Elders, Messrs. Stephen Van Rensselaer, Philip S. Schuyler, and Abraham Van Vechten, L. L. D.†

† Appeared on the 3d day of the session.

‡ Obtained leave of absence on the 8th day of the session.

§ Obtained leave of absence from the 6th day of the session, and the Rev. Mr. Eltinge took his seat as secundus.

* Appeared on the 2d day of the session.

3. *From the Classis of Ulster.*

Rev. Henry Polhemus, and Peter A. Overbagh.

Elders, Messrs. Josiah R. Eltinge, and Selah Tuthill.‡

4. *From the Classis of Rensselaer.*

Rev. Philip Duryea, Jacob Sickles,* and Stephen Ostrander.†

Elder, Mr. William Knickerbacker.*

5. *From the Classis of Montgomery.*

Rev. Abraham Van Horne, and John C. Toll.†

Elders, Messrs. Andrew Loucks, Jun. and Thomas Sammons.

ARTICLE III.

Moderators.

Rev. John Schureman was chosen President.

Rev. Jacob Brodhead was chosen Adsessor.

Rev. John De Witt and Jesse Fonda were chosen Clerks.

Rev. S. S. Woodhull was appointed the permanent clerk of the General Synod. Resolved, that it be considered the duty of the permanent clerk to attend every meeting of General Synod, and with the assistance of *pro tempore* clerks, record the proceedings of Synod according to the list of Lemmata, and to make out a fair copy of these minutes for publication, which he shall put into the hands of the stated clerk, and that for these services he be allowed the sum of twenty dollars annually.

‡ Appeared on the 4th day of the session.

* Appeared on the 2d day of the session.

† Appeared on the 3d day of the session.

ARTICLE IV.

Advisory Members.

The following persons appeared at different times during the session, and were invited to sit as advisory members.

Rev. Dr. Livingston, Rev. Messrs. Eltinge, Livingston, Westervelt, Isaac Labagh, Cuyler, Thomas Romeyn, Van Vechten, Van Huysen, and Van Santvoord.

Rev. Dr. Neill, and Rev. Mr. Chester, of the Presbyterian church.

Rev. Mr. M'Jimpsy, of the Associate Reformed Church.

A motion was made and seconded, that advisory members be not permitted to participate in the discussions of this body, unless requested to speak. Resolved, that this motion be made the order of the day for Wednesday morning, when it was postponed, and thereupon the Synod resolved that from and immediately after the present meeting of Synod, the Lemma respecting advisory members shall cease.

ARTICLE V.

Reading of Minutes.

The minutes of the last ordinary session of the General Synod were read.

ACTS OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Orders and Rules.

These were read.

ARTICLE II.

Standing Committees.

The following committees were appointed :

Committee on the Professorate, Rev. Drs. Bradford,

and Milledoler, and Rev. Messrs. Labagh, Romeyn, and Brodhead, and the Elders, Messrs. Gilbert and Veghte.

Committee on Synodical Minutes, Rev. Messrs. Rowan and Gosman, and the Elder, Mr. Van Rensselaer.

Committee on Correspondence, Rev. Dr. Bassett, and Rev. Mr. Polhemus, and the Elder, Mr. Benson.

Committee on Missions, Rev. Messrs. Van Pelt, C. T. Demarest, Sickles, and Zabriskie, and the Elder, Mr. Erringer.

Committee on the State of Religion, Rev. Dr. Fræligh, Rev. Messrs. Mathews, Christie, and Duryea, and the Elder, Mr. Van Arsdalen; Rev. Dr. Fræligh and Mr. Mathews obtained leave of absence, and the Rev. Messrs. Bronk and Romeyn were added to the committee.

Committee on Gravamina, Rev. Messrs. Larzalere, James Demarest, Labagh, and Rowan, and the Elder, Mr. Striker.

ARTICLE III.

Communications.

A copy of the Acts and Proceedings of the Synod of the German Church, at their last session, was received and referred to the committee on correspondence.

A communication was received from Mr. John N. Bleecker, as follows:

Rev. Ministers and Elders of the General Synod.

Gentlemen,

The enclosed statement contains particular entries of all monies received and paid by the Committee of Missions, between the 2d June, 1812, and the 23d January, 1815, with the balance due to the committee;

from which it will appear that the amount received since the account rendered to your Reverend Body, in 1812, is $88,32, and that the amount paid is $400,83.

I am, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

JOHN N. BLEECKER.

DR. *The Committee of Missions for the Dutch Church in Account with John N. Bleecker, Treasurer,* CR.

DR.

1812.		
June 13.	To cash paid Leonard Lewis per order of General Synod, for services performed,	$3 00
	To cash paid Barent Bogart and Charles Lockrow, for services performed per order of General Synod,	30 00
15.	To cash paid M'Leish and Birrel, per order of ditto,	15 67½
	Christian Miller,	6 00
18.	James Vossburgh,	2 00
20.	John McLachlen,	1 12½
27.	for postage of a letter to John H. Sickles,	0 17
Dec. 21.	the Rev. John Duryea, for Missionary Services,	150 00
1813.		
Aug. 3.	for postage of a letter to the Rev. Jesse Fonda, on missionary business,	0 8
1814.		
Dec. 30.	To cash paid Rev. John Duryea, for Missionary Services,	40 00
1815.		
Jan'y 16.	for postage of a letter to J. H. Sickles,	0 17
	Ryer Schermerhorn, for printing 1000 copies of the minutes of General Synod,	152 28
23.	for postage of a letter to J. H. Sickles,	0 13
	for ½ quire writing paper for the use of the committee at their meetings, &c. from Oct. 1810,	0 15
	Balance due the committee, 6th June, 1815,	315 63
		$716 46

CR.

1812.		
June 2.	By balance due the committee, as per account transmitted to the General Synod at their session in 1812,	$628 14
June 4.	By cash received of the Rev. C. D. Westbrook,	10 00
July 15.	Joseph Alexander, on an order from G. and R. Waite, transmitted by John H. Sickles,	50 00
1813.		
July 15.	By cash received of the Rev. Mr. Van Huysen, collected for missionary purposes in the congregations under his charge,	6 00
1814.		
Aug. 12.	By cash received from the Rev. Dr. John Bassett, in full of the balance due from him as treasurer of the Classis of Albany in 1806,	22 26
		$716 46
1815.		
June 6.	By balance due the Committee,	$315 63

Albany, 6th June, 1815.

JOHN N. BLEECKER.

The above communication was referred to the standing committee on missions appointed at this Synod.

A communication was received from the Rev. Dr. Kuypers, of a translation of the articles of union, agreeably to the request of the General Synod at their last session, which was read. Resolved, that the same, with the original, be referred to the Rev. Dr. Milledoler, and the Rev. Messrs. Romeyn and Sickles, as a committee to report to this Synod on all the unfinished business in relation to these articles of union, that they also correct the same, if necessary, and that the said translation be published in the appendix to the minutes of this Synod.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Synod be presented to the Rev. Dr. Kuypers for the said translation.

A communication was received as follows :

Extract from the proceedings of the Classis of Poughkeepsie, during their session in April, 1815.

"Whereas the Particular Synod of Albany, at their session in October, 1814, have not appointed delegates *secundi*, according to the recommendation of this Classis, and pursuant to the uniform practice of the church : Resolved, that the stated clerk be requested to furnish our delegates to General Synod with a certified copy of the act of this classis on the subject, under the head of Lemma, "Delegates to General Synod."

"*Resolved*, That the Rev. Messrs. Vedder, Westbrook, and Gosman, and the Elders, Henry H. Schoonmaker, John F. Ham, and Richard Rapelye, be recommended as delegates *primarii*, and the Rev. Messrs. De Witt, Cuyler, and McMurray, and the Elders, Thomas I. Storm, Jacob Shultz, and Samuel Mathews, delegates *secundi*, to the next General Synod."

"I do hereby, pursuant to the above resolution, certify the above to be a true and correct copy of the act of the classis of Poughkeepsie, at the session in September, 1814. Attest,

"ANDREW N. KITTLE, *Stated Clerk*."

Resolved, That the above communication be referred to the committee on Synodical Minutes.

The Rev. Isaac Labagh presented to the Synod a translation of the constitution of the German church, agreeably to the request of Synod at their last session. Resolved, that the thanks of this Synod be presented to Mr. Labagh for the same.

The following communication was also received.

The committee appointed by the General Synod at their session in the year 1814, to confer with a like committee from the board of trustees of Queen's College, for the purpose of devising a plan for putting out at interest the monies given in trust to the trustees of Queen's College for the benefit of pious youth intending to preach the Gospel, report:

That agreeably to their appointment they met with a committee from the board of trustees of Queen's College, and that the following is the result of their joint proceedings, viz.

"New-Brunswick, July 12th, 1814. At a meeting of the committees of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, and of the trustees of Queen's College in New-Jersey, for the purpose of devising a plan for putting out at interest the monies donated in trust to the trustees of Queen's College, by Elias Van Bunschooten, of the county of Sussex, in the state of New-Jersey:

"Present, Rev. John Cornelison and Stephen N. Rowan, and Mr. Garret Tunison, committee from the Synod; Rev. John Schureman, Messrs. James Schureman, Staats Van Deursen, and Robert Boggs, committee from the board of trustees of Queen's College.

"The Rev. John Cornelison, was chosen chairman, and Robert Boggs, clerk.

"The original donation of the said Elias Van Bunschooten, signed at New-York, dated the 9th of June, 1814, together with the assignment of the bonds, and the schedule of the same, was produced and read. On motion, Resolved unanimously, that the treasurer

of Queen's College be authorised and instructed, to put out at interest, on good bonds and mortgages, the monies now in hands, and all such as shall come to his hands as treasurer, belonging to the fund donated by the said Elias Van Bunschooten to the said trustees of Queen's College.

" *Resolved,* That James Schureman, Jacob R. Hardenbergh, and William P. Deare, Esqrs. be a committee, with whom the treasurer shall advise as to the putting out of the said monies at interest.

" JOHN CORNELISON, *Chairman.*

" Attest, ROBERT BOGGS, *Clerk.*

" All which is respectfully submitted,

" STEPHEN N. ROWAN, *Chairman*

" *Of the Committee of Conference from General Synod.*"

Accompanying the above report, was an extract from the minutes of the trustees of Queen's College, duly authenticated, by which it appears that that board have received the same report of proceedings from their committee of conference, which they have ordered to be recorded and filed with their treasurer.

The following communication was received from Mr. Isaac L. Kip, special treasurer of the General Synod, to wit:

DR. *General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, in account with Isaac L. Kip, their special Treasurer,* CR.

DR.

1814.

Novem. 2. To cash paid Staats Van Deursen, Treasurer Queen's College, $621 27

Dec. 8. To do. do. 136 4

1815.

April 17. To cash paid postages R. Bronk's letter con-

		taining money collected in the congregations of Boght, Washington, and Gibbonsville,		57
June	5.	To balance carried to new account,	447	5
			$1225	93

Cr.

1814.				
June	14.	By balance of account rendered,	538	9
		By cash received of Rev. Mr. McMurray, collected in church at Rhinebeck,	25	
		By do. Staatsburgh,	10	
Oct.	17.	By do. received from the consistory of Greenwich,	38	18
Nov.	5.	By do. received from the Rev. Philip Duryea, collected in the congregations of Saratoga, Easton, Union Village, Schaghticoke and Tyociock,	58	30
	9.	By do. received from Rev. Mr. Cornelison, collected at Bergen,	13	50
		By do. from Rev. G. R. Livingston, collected at Coxsackie,	25	
Dec.	8.	By do. from Rev. J. Brodhead, collected at Philadelphia,	136	04
1815.				
Feb'y.	7.	By do. from Rev. J. Schureman, treasurer of classis of New-Brunswick,	45	
	17.	By do. from consistory of New-York,	128	
March	9.	By do. from Rev. J. V. C. Romeyn, collected at Scraalenbergh,	7	11
April	17.	By do. from Rev. R. Bronk, collected at the Boght, $11		
		By do. collected at Washington, 16	27	
	18.	By do. collected in church at Fordham,	5	12
May	2.	By do. from Rev. W. Eltinge, collected in church at Clarkestown, $4 46		
		Tappan, 5 21		
		Paramus, 6 21		
		Warwick, 9 50	25	38

May	3.	By do. Rev. P. Steddiford, treasurer of classis of Philadelphia,	86	46
		By do. Rev. Mr. Santvoord, (congregation of Pompton,)	6	75
		By do. Rev. J. V. C. Romeyn, (congregation of Hackensack)	5	
	25.	By do. Rev. C. C. Cuyler, Poughkeepsie,	26	
June	3.	By do. Rev. J. Schureman, treasurer of New-Brunswick classis,	20	
			$1225	93
1815.				
June	2.	By balance,	$477	5

Errors excepted, June 5, 1815.

ISAAC L. KIP, *Special Treasurer.*

Resolved, That the above communication be referred to the committee on the professorate.

The following communication was received, and also referred to the committee on the professorate.

Dr. *Queen's College, (Professoral Fund) in account current with Staats Van Deursen, Treasurer, for interest received on the said Fund, and other monies, and paid to the Professor of Theology on account of his salary,* Cr.

Dr.

1814.				
June	13.	To cash paid the Rev. Dr. John H. Livingston, professor of theology, in part of his salary,	$653	20
Sept.	30.	To do. paid do.	829	20
Nov.		To do. paid do.	290	71¼
1815.				
March	15.	To do. paid do.	350	
		To do paid do.	497	16
		To commissions on $1152 66, being the am't. of interest received on professoral fund, at 2½ per cent,	28	82
			2649	9¾

Cr.			
1813.			
Oct. 13.	By cash received of Myndert Wilson, interest on his bond,	$140	
Nov. 27.	David Freeman, do.	70	
Dec. 6.	John Polhemus, do.	63	
15.	J. Erickson, on W. Hoffman's bond,	70	
1814.			
May 14.	David Freeman, on his bond,	39	66
23.	James Stevenson, do.	70	
June 1.	James Brom, do.	17	50
July 7.	Benjamin Griggs, do.	140	
25.	David Service, do.	52	50
Aug. 15.	J. Erickson, on W. Hoffman's bond,	70	
Oct. 4.	do. do.	70	
Dec. 29.	Matthew Williamson, on his bond,	210	
1815.			
March 10.	James Stevenson, do.	140	
		$1152	66

Received from the fund created by the Synod for assisting students in divinity, rec'd. 19th Nov. 1813,	310	20
Rec'd. from same fund, 2d Nov. 1814,	290	71½
do. 7th Dec. 1814,	66	32
Borrowed, 30th Sep. 1814,	829	20
	$2649	09½

In obedience to the resolution of the General Synod, passed June, 1814, the treasurer of Queen's College presents the above account, embracing the receipts and disbursements of the professoral fund.

He would state, for the information of General Synod, that the whole amount of principal of the said fund, which has come to his possession, is twelve thousand three hundred and thirty-two dollars and fifty-seven cents, which is invested in bonds and mortgages,

bearing an interest of seven per cent. It appears from the books of the late treasurer of Queen's College, that he has paid to the Professor of Theology, on account of his salary, the sum of two thousand and forty-three dollars and fifty-six cents, and from the present treasurer, the Professor has received the sum of two thousand six hundred and twenty dollars and twenty-seven cents and an half. Respectfully submitted,

STAATS VAN DEURSEN, *Treas. Q. Coll.*

New-Brunswick, 31*st May*, 1815.

Communications were received from Messrs. John E. Miller, Albert Amerman, and Matthias Bruen, jun. students in theology in the seminary of the Associate Reformed Church; which communication was read and referred to the committee on the professorate.

The following communication from the Board of Superintendants was received, and referred to the committee on the Professorate.

The Board of Superintendants of the Theological School, in conformity with the rule of Synod, beg leave to report:

The board of superintendants, in making their annual report, have the satisfaction to announce to the General Synod that at the commencement of the course of lectures in the Theological School, the different classes comprised 15 students in theology, viz. Richard Sluyter, Nicholas Marselis, and Abm. Wilson, of the third year's standing; Isaiah Y. Johnstone, Wm. Bogardus, Ava Neil, Cornelius Eltinge, and Jacob Shultz, of the second year's standing; and Frederic Vermeule, Isaac Wyckoff, John Ludlow, John Burtis, Samuel A. Van Vranken, Peter Van Zandt, and John Swartwout, (since dead) of the first year. That on the third Tuesday of

May, the board met and attended a general examination of the School. Messrs. Nicholas Jones and James Christie, to whom dispensations were granted to prosecute their studies in the seminary of the Associate Reformed Church, presented certificates, and requested an examination, and were accordingly admitted.

The board were highly gratified with the evidence which the young gentlemen gave of their proficiency in the objects of their pursuit; which reflects great credit on the zeal, faithfulness and abilities of your venerable Professor. Of the above number, Messrs. Sluyter, Marselis, and Wilson, whose term of study had expired, together with Messrs. Jones and Christie, were further examined upon the Hebrew language, and furnished with certificates to their classes according to the direction of General Synod. They also furnished them with a recommendation to the Professor as worthy of his official certificate, which should admit them to examination for licensure before their respective classes. In the course of the last year, two hundred and fifty dollars have been appropriated to the relief of a student in theology. The additional sum of one hundred dollars has been appropriated to the increase of the library, which has also been enlarged by the donation of a number of valuable books.

The board of superintendants feel happy in being enabled to congratulate the Synod on the growing prosperity of the institution, particularly in respect to the number of the students. Five have been recommended for licensure, including Jones and Christie; eleven remain in the institution, and there is a hope of considerable accession. The board, however, regret that

there is still a great deficiency in the number of professors, and that the extensive plan of a theological education adopted by Synod, has not been carried into complete operation. Under a sense of these wants, feeling a desire to place the institution on ground which will command the confidence of the churches, and acting under that rule, which allows them to recommend to Synod such measures as they conceive adapted to the advancement and prosperity of the institution, they beg leave to make the following statement and recommendations :

That the practice of granting dispensations to theological students to prosecute their studies in other seminaries, and then return for examination and licensure in our own school and classes, is unprecedented, except in the Dutch Church, and, in its operation, unquestionably tends to prevent the growth and prosperity of our school, and the harmony of our churches, and as far as this board is enabled to judge, can be attended with no possible advantages to the students or the churches at large. They, therefore, recommend that in future no dispensations, on any account, be granted to any of our young men to prosecute their studies in other seminaries, and then return for examination in our school, and licensure by our classes.

That while the board yield with pleasure their highest approbation to the faithful and persevering labors of the present Professor, and think him worthy of the gratitude of the churches, they feel sensible that a number of those branches of a complete theological education, which were adopted in the plan of 1812, are still wanting, and that it is of great importance, if practicable, imme-

diately to provide one or more professors to instruct in those branches. The board are of opinion, that a minister of our church, well qualified for teaching some of these branches may be obtained for the annual sum of five hundred dollars, in addition to his present salary, and they recommend the appointment of such person.

To meet the present and additional expenses, the board are sensible new exertions will be required of the Synod, and they recommend the adoption of such measures as will realize the liberal offers of some of our churches, and secure a permanent and adequate support to all the officers of the school. These measures, the board presume not to dictate, but leave them to the wisdom, piety and zeal of Synod.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Chairman.*

The following communication was received from the committee on the state of religion.

The committee on the state of religion beg leave to submit to the Synod the following suggestion. They find the information respecting the state of religion, which is found in the classical reports, as given in the Synodical minutes, scanty and unsatisfactory, and therefore would suggest to the Synod the propriety of appointing a time for a free conversation in committee of the whole, on the state of religion within the bounds of the several classes, and on the causes which may be deemed to have contributed to its advancement or decline. Your committee have no doubt, but that information would thus be given them, from which a report might be drawn up that would be satisfactory, and they would hope profitable.

SOLOMON FRÆLIGH, *Chairman.*

The Synod resolved that the consideration of the above communication be postponed until Friday morning.

On Friday morning the Synod resolved that the consideration of the above communication be further postponed until Friday afternoon.

On Friday afternoon the Synod resolved, that, agreeably to the suggestion of the committee on the state of religion, the house will now proceed to appoint a time of recess for free conversation on the subject referred to in the preceding communication.

The yeas and nays being called for on this resolution by more than one third of the members present, were taken and are as follows:

Yeas, Philip Milledoler, James M. Mathews, Cornelius T. Demarest, John Demarest, Jesse Fonda, John L. Zabriskie, Solomon Frælígh, John I. Christie, James Demarest, Jacob Brodhead, Herman Vedder, John Gosman, John M. Bradford, John De Witt, Robert Bronk, Henry Polhemus, Peter A. Overbagh, Philip Duryea, Stephen Ostrander, Jacob Sickles, John C. Toll, James Striker, John Van Voorhees, Ryneer Veghte, Henry Van Arsdalen, Matthias Lane, David Demarest, Garret Sarvan, Frederic Erringer, Andrew Loucks, Jun. Thomas Sammons. 31.

Nays, Stephen N. Rowan, James V. C. Romeyn, John Bassett, Jacob Larzalere, Peter Labagh, Abraham Van Horne, William W. Gilbert, Egbert Benson, Peter Wyckoff, Derick Kreuster, Henry H. Schoonmaker, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Philip S. Schuyler, Abraham Van Vechten, Josiah R. Eltinge, Selah Tuthill, William Knickerbacker. 17.

Resolved, That Synod will have a recess on Monday afternoon, at 5 o'clock, for free conversation on the state of religion.

On Monday afternoon the Synod resolved that this business be further postponed, and that they will have a recess on Tuesday morning, at 11 o'clock, for free conversation on the state of religion, which resolution was attended to on Tuesday morning.

ARTICLE IV.

Correspondence.

The committee on correspondence reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on correspondence report, that it is with heartfelt satisfaction, they find the correspondence with our Christian brethren, the members of our parent church in the Netherlands, so long and so lamentably interrupted by war, resumed; the Synod of New-York having lately transmitted a copy of their proceedings to the Synod of North Holland, and requested a copy of theirs in return; your committee hereupon report the following resolution: Resolved, that the synod of New-York, be, from time to time, furnished with copies of the proceedings of this Synod, to be by them also transmitted to the Synod of North Holland.

With respect to the communications from the Synod of the Reformed German Church, convened at Easton, in Pennsylvania, on the 23d April last, your committee deem it requisite only to report that the Rev. Messrs. Schureman and Hardenbergh attended as delegates from this Synod, and were cordially recognized, and were invited to sit as members; and further that the German Synod state, that by "reason of the great distance from

the places in which both Synods meet, and of other inconveniences connected with it, it may not be convenient at all times to send delegates to the different Synodical meetings; they therefore still resolve on their part that all possible care be taken that the correspondence between both Synods be kept up, by transmitting their Synodical acts, and proceedings to this Synod, though it cannot at all times by sending delegates." Your committee thereupon report the following resolution: Resolved, that copies of the proceedings of this Synod be, from time to time, transmitted to the Synod of the Reformed German Church in the United States.

JOHN BASSETT, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE V.

Synodical Reports on the State of the Churches.

The committee on the state of Religion reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on the state of Religion report, that from the statistical reports on the minutes of the particular Synods, as well as from other sources of information, they are warranted to communicate, that although in some of our congregations, our prospects are not flattering, still there do exist great causes of joy and strong grounds of encouragement to all those who feel a lively interest in the welfare of Zion: that the additions to the churches have been considerable during the year past, and that in a few of our congregations a particular and very encouraging attention to religion has prevailed.

Your committee farther observe, that among the causes which appear to have been particularly blessed for the good of the church, family visitation, catechetical

instruction, the establishment of special meetings for prayer, and growing attention to the exercise of discipline, as well as the faithful preaching of the Gospel and the explanation of the Heidelbergh Catechism, deserve to be remembered by this Synod with praise and thanksgiving to the Great Head of the church. And as an expression of their willingness to profit by the intimations of the Divine Will, as revealed in the dispensations of his Providence, your committee submit to the consideration of Synod the following suggestions:

1. Sensible of the good effects resulting, under the blessing of Divine Grace, from a faithful and particular attention to the duty of social prayer, your committee would suggest to the Synod the propriety of recommending to the ministers and congregations under their care an increasing zeal and industry in the establishment of meetings more extensively for the purpose of praise and prayer.

2. Your committee convinced of the importance of using every lawful and scriptural means to impress the truths of the Gospel upon the minds of the young and rising generation—as also of the usefulness of addressing to the consciences of individuals the solemn realities revealed in the word of God, are therefore happy to report to this Synod, that the duties of catechetical instruction and family visitation are generally attended to, and they would respectfully suggest to the Synod the propriety of recommending the continuance of the same duties in those congregations in which they are already in practice, a more faithful attention where they have been partially performed, and their immediate practical introduction, if in any of the churches they have been hitherto wholly neglected.

Upon the whole, your committee cannot but express their gratitude to God and their joy to the churches under the care of this Synod, on account of the good things the Lord hath done for us, and they must announce it as a matter of great encouragement to all those whom God has called to labor in his vineyard. This encouraging thought, that the Great Head of the church has not forsaken us, that he is yet found of those that seek him, that his power is made known, and his grace displayed in the midst of us,—enables us confidently to hope for the enlargement of the church and the more extensive influence of vital piety.

Your committee beg leave to subjoin the following statistical reports : viz.

PARTICULAR SYNODS....NEW-YORK & ALBANY.

Particular Synod of New-York.

CLASSIS OF NEW-YORK.

Churches.	Pastors.	Families.	Total of Congregation	In communn. pr. last rep't.	Rec. confess.	Rec. certif't.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.	Bap'd adults.	Bap'd Infants
New-York,	Dr. Kuypers, Dr. Milledoler,	370	1350	759	35	22	12	1	17	787	4	78
Garden street,	J. M. Mathews,	127	750	50	26	5				31	2	19
Brooklyn,	S. S. Woodhull,	139	700	109	3	5	1		3	113	1	24
German Church,	J. Labagh,	188		209	13		4		5	213		16
Northwest,	C. Bork,	230	850	320	29	10	6		4	359	3	65
Greenwich,	S. N. Rowan,	90	450	116	20	5	3		1	137	3	19
Bloomingdale,	A. Gunn,			28	8	2		2	1	35		
Haerlem,	No Pastor, No report.											
Fordham,	No Pastor.	40		18	5					23	1	16
Tarrytown,	Thos. G. Smith, No report.											
Cortlandtown,	Abm. Hoffman,	47	216	51	1		2	2		48		
	CLASSIS OF BERGEN.											
Bergen,	J. Cornelison,	150	600		12	2			4	115		24
English neigh'd.	C. T. Demarest,			63	2	1		1		66		24
Ponds.	J. Demarest,				3	2			1	108		45
Pompton,	Jacob T. Field,	252	1431	85	20	3			1	107	1	71
Hackensack and Schraalenbergh,	J. V. C. Romeyn,	140	546		16				5			31
		104	409									
Bellville,	S. V. Santvoord, No report.											
Fairfield,	J. Stryker, No report.											
Stonehouse Plains,	No pastor, No report.											
Preakness,	No pastor, No report.											
Boontown,	No pastor, No report.											
	CLASSIS OF PARAMUS.											
Aquackenunck and Totawa,	W. Schoonmaker,	172	952	97	6			2	2	99		45
		113	606	90				2	2	86		33
Tappan and Clarkstown,	N. Lansing,	172	804	157		4			6	155	13	31
		206	999	173	8	1		1		181		35
Hackensack & Schraalenburgh	No report.											
Saddle River & Paskeck,	S. Goetchius,	83	404	83						83		17
		No report.										
Paramus,	W. Eltinge,	173	1005		1	11		5		180	1	25
Kakijat, and Ramapaugh,	J. Demarest,	120	534	105						105		23
		149	750	74						74		37
Warwick,	J. T. Christie, No report.											
	CLASSIS OF NEW- BRUNSWICK.											
N. Brunswick,	J. Fonda,	253	1536	13	12	4	1	7		195	3	59
Raritan,	J. Vredenburgh,	140	840	11	1	8				150	1	30
Hillsborough,	J. L. Zabriskie, No report.											
Bedminster,	C. Hardenbergh,	174	1064	3	3	2				125		6
Rockaway,	No pastor, No report.											
Rockaway in Lebanon,	No pastor, No report,											
Middletown & Freehold,	B. Dubois, No report.											

Churches.	Pastors.	Families.	Total of Congregation	Incommun. pr. last rep't.	Rec. confess.	Rec. certifi't.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.	Bap'd. adults.	Bap'd. Infants
Walpeck, & Hardwick,	J. G. Force, No report.											
Minisink,	No pastor, No report.											
Mahackamack,	No pastor, No report.											
Clove,	No pastor, No report.											
Smithfield,	No pastor, No report.											
Salt River,	No pastor, No report.											
	CLASSIS OF LONG ISLAND.											
Staten Island,	P. I. V. Pelt, No report.											
New Utrecht,	J. Beatie,	78	412	71	2	2			1	74		12
Gravesend,	M. Schoonmaker,	60	488	56	4				1	59	1	18
Flatlands &	P. Lowe,	65	525	40	2				1	41		12
Flatbush,	P. Lowe,	26	1130	101	2	2			3	102		12
Bushwyck,	J. Bassett,	75	403	83	5	1		1	2	87		22
Newtown &	J. Schoonmaker, &	80	480	74	8					82		8
Jamaica,	Z. H. Kuypers,	107	580	61	8	2			2	69		25
Success and Oyster Bay,	H. S. Bogart, & Z. H. Kuypers,	No report.										
	CLASSIS OF PHILADELPHIA.											
Philadelphia,	J. Brodhead,	220		105			2	2			9	40
Northbranch,	P. Steddiford,	225	912		13	3	6		1	160		
Shannick &	P. Labagh,	173	955		12			2	3	99	3	49
Harlingen,	W. Smith,	159	1040		15				4	151		24
N. & S. Hampton,	J. Larzalere,	112	670		5				3	78		20

Particular Synod of Albany.

	CLASSIS OF ALBANY.											
Albany,	J. M. Bradford, J. De Witt,		2400	385	19	1				402	1	40
Coxsackie,	G. R. Livingston,	210	1437	82	14	1		3		92	1	34
Bethlehem,	R. A. Westervelt,	130	780	148	8	1		1		155	2	23
Coeymans,	R. A. Westervelt,	65	390	49	4				1	51	1	13
Neskauna & Amity,	Thos. Romeyn, No report.											
Washington & Boght,	R. Bronk, No report.											
Salem, Jerusalem & Heldebergh,	H. V. Huysen, No report.											
Schenectady 1& 2 Churches & Basick,	No pastor, No report.											
	CLASSIS OF ULSTER.											
Paltz,	P. D. Fræleigh,	280		111	1			1	1	112		60
New Hurly,	P. D. Fræleigh,	179	1092	77			3		1			36
Montgomery,	M. Fræleigh,	214	1800	255	11	1		2	7	260	1	48
Saugerties,	H. Ostrander,	200	1200	117	6	3	1		4	121	1	61
Woodstock,	P. Overbagh,				11			1	4		2	31
Flatbush,	P. Overbagh,				11				3	65		37
Bloomingdale,	J. R. Hasbrook,	86	484	34				1		33		11
Kline Sopus,	No pastor,	115	765	81	4					85		24
Shawangunk,	Mr. Polhemus,	240	1500	144	2		2	2	4	142		59
Catskill,	No pastor,	120	720	84								
Hurley,	No pastor,	31	243	41	7					57		8

The other Churches in this Classis made no Report.

CLASSIS OF POUGHKEEPSIE.

Churches.	Pastors.	Families.	Total of Congregation	In communion. pr. last rep't.	Rec. confess.	Rec. certifi't.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.	Bap'd. adults.	Bap'd. infants
Hopewell,	T. De Witt,	90		90	16					105	5	13
New-Hackensack,	T. De Witt,	108	650	55	10		2	1	1	165		16
Kingston,	J. Gosman	280	1750				8	4	5	306		39
Poughkeepsie,	C. C. Cuyler,	300	1900	193	15	3	3		1	207	1	98
Redhook,	A. N. Kittle,	100		95		1	3	1	1	98		8
Rhinebeck,	W. McMurray,	128	790	140	3	3	2		2	140		13
Greenbush & Taghanack,	H. Vedder, No report.											
Fishkill,	C. D. Westbrook, No report.											
Linlithgow & Hyde Park.	No pastor, No report.											

CLASSIS OF MONTGOMERY.

Caughnawaga	A. Van Horne,	250	1250	230	10		2		5	233		
Florida,	W. Paige,	255	1300	125	2				5	135		
Germanflatts,	J. P. Spinner,	136	1000	230	9				2	237		
Herkimer,	J. P. Spinner.	159	860	364	13				7	368		
Middleburg,	D. Devoe,	142	849	98	14	2		1		114		
Beaverdam,	D. Devoe,	131	783	130	5	2			1	136		
Middletown,	Mr. Toll,	70		61	3			1	1	63		
Westerlo,	Mr. Toll,	61		44	5		1		1	47		
New-Rhinebeck, & Sharon,	I. Labagh,	120		90	10				1	99		
		150		80	14					94		
Fort Plain, & Stonearabia,	J. F. Wack, No report.											
Dyse's Manor,	C. D. Schermerhorn, No report.											
Ovid,	A. Brocaw, No report.											
Aurelius & Owasco,	C. Ten Eyck, No report.											
Union & Chenango,	S. Palmer, No report,											

The following churches are vacant, and made no reports, viz. Schoharie Mountain; 2 churches of Charlestown; Mayfield; Fonda's Bush; Union; Asquach; Indian Castle; Coenrad's Town; 1st church of Charlestown; Blenheim; and Schoharie.

Classis of Rensselaer made no Report.

Whereas the sources of information have been scanty, and have not afforded your committee ample means for making a complete report on the state of the churches, your committee, therefore, submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, That it be enjoined on the several classes to require from each congregation a particular and full account of the state of such congregation specifying particularly the state of religion therein—to the end that through the classes and Particular Synods, the General Synod may receive correct information relating to the churches under their care.

Resolved, That the Synod consider this to be the most proper mode for obtaining a regular, full and true account of whatever relates to the churches composing this body.

All which is humbly submitted,

JAMES. V. C. ROMEYN, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE VI.

Synodical Appeals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE VII.

Synodical References.

The committee on Synodical minutes reported, and their report was accepted, and is as follows :

The committee on Synodical minutes report, that from an examination of the minutes of the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany, the following subjects appear to require the attention of this body :

1. On the minutes of the Particular Synod of New-York a reference of a case of marriage of one of the members of the church of New-York with his deceased wife's sister, and also a case relative to the baptism of a child born of such marriage, in the following words, viz.

Whereas a case of *supposed incest* has been referred to the classis from the church of New-York, and whereas cases have heretofore occurred, and may hereafter frequently occur, and whereas there appears to be a

growing diversity of opinion as to the lawfulness of such marriage as the case describes: therefore, resolved, that said reference be transmitted to the Particular Synod, who are hereby requested to present the same to the General Synod, who are by this classis respectfully requested to take into their serious consideration the act of the General Synod, passed in 1797, on a similar case, upon which act the consistory of the church of New-York founded their decision; and that they repeal, amend, or in some form address the churches under their care on this subject, as they, in their wisdom, may deem best calculated to promote the glory of God, and the peace, happiness, and best interest of our churches.

As having actually grown out of the above case, the following queries were submitted to the classis: can baptism be justly and regularly administered at all to the child of parents, one of whom is not a member in full communion in any church, and the other has been suspended from the communion of the church for the marriage of his deceased wife's sister? Can such child be consistently baptized, when presented, not by the parents, but by the great grand parents, who are persons of approved piety? the classis, after much consideration, resolved, that these queries be transmitted to the particular and General Synod, in like manner with the case itself, from which these queries have arisen for the decision of General Synod, and as additional reason for the paternal and immediate attention of that body to the subject generally.

2. An instruction to the delegates to General Synod respectfully to ask of that body the appointment of a standing committee of missions to be attached to that

Particular Synod, and to act especially within what are termed the bounds of that Synod.

3. On the minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany an instruction to delegates to request the General Synod to pass a positive rule to oblige the students of our Theological School to apply for licences to the classes within whose bounds they respectively belong.

4. A reference of a communication from the classis of Ulster, asking advice in the case of the Rev. John Gosman.

5. On the subject of the communication referred to them from the classis of Poughkeepsie, your committee recommend the following resolution as an expression of the views of this Synod: Resolved, that the Particular Synod of Albany were not warranted in neglecting to appoint Delegates secundi for the classis of Poughkeepsie, merely on the grounds of other classes having omitted to recommend such delegates: that though one classis may wave the right of recommendation, yet another ought not, on that account, to be deprived of theirs; and that it be and hereby is enjoined upon the different classes within the bounds of the Particular Synod of Albany, hereafter to recommend to Particular Synod—and on the Particular Synod to appoint delegates secundi.

By order of the Committee,

STEPHEN N. ROWAN, *Chairman.*

The first section of the report of the committee on Synodical minutes was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Fræligh, Dr. Milledoler, and Messrs Mathews and De Witt, together with the Elders, Messrs. Benson, Gilbert, and Van Rensselaer: in consequence of Dr. Fræligh and Mr. Mathews obtain-

ing leave of absence, the Rev. Messrs. Brodhead and Gosman were added to this committee.

The second section was referred to the committee on missions.

The third section was referred to a special committee consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Romeyn and Zabriskie, and the Elder, Mr. Van Vechten.

The fourth section was referred to a special committee consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Labagh and Brodhead, and the Elder, Mr. Van Vechten.

The fifth section was recommitted.

The committee on Synodical minutes again reported, and their report, having been amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on Synodical Minutes state, on the subject of the communication referred to them from the classis of Poughkeepsie, that though there is nothing in the plan of new organization of General Synod on the subject of delegates *secundi*, yet that plan appears to have been predicated on the practice of the church, and as it is highly important to have a full representation of the lower judicatories in the General Synod, your committee, for the purpose of having a regulation conformable to the practice of the church, submit the following resolution: Resolved, that it be enjoined on all the inferior judicatories of this church, in their appointment or recommendation of delegates, to appoint or recommend delegates *secundi*, as well as delegates *primarii*, when their numbers render it practicable.

Respectfully submitted,

STEPHEN N. ROWAN, *Chairman.*

The special committee on the first section of the report of the committee on Synodical Minutes reported,

and their report, having been amended by the Synod, was adopted, and is as follows:

The special committee, to whom was referred the first section of the report of the committee on Synodical minutes, report:

In answer to the first part, that it hath already been adjudged; first, by the Particular Synod in 1788, and afterwards by the General Synod in 1797: That the adjudication of the General Synod in 1797, is in these words, viz. "The following question was brought up from the Particular Synod, Is it lawful for a man to marry his deceased wife's sister?—which, being considered, was answered by the General Synod in the negative. A committee was then appointed to report what degree of censure is proper to be inflicted upon the persons who contract such marriage; who reported, as their opinion, that as the General Synod have determined the marriage of a man with his deceased wife's sister to be unlawful, therefore the decision of the Particular Synod held in the year 1788 must regulate the censure in such cases:—the above report was agreed to."—And that the adjudication of the Particular Synod in 1788, as found annexed to the above adjudication in the minutes of the General Synod, is in these words, "The Synod resolved, that as all such marriages are contrary to the word of God, and that purity of life so becoming the Christian character, the persons contracting such marriages cannot be admitted to the table of the Lord until the offence be removed." And, consequently, that the consistory of the church of New-York, in the said case before them, conform to these adjudications accordingly in respect to whatever may remain to be done therein.

classis of Ulster ought to pursue in that case, or what advice would meet the questions and difficulties which have occurred before the said classis.

The committee apprehend that in cases of reference by an inferior to a superior judicatory for advice; the questions referred, as well as the facts on which they arise, should be precisely stated, and that the advice asked for, should not involve a commitment by the higher judicatory upon a case of discipline which is under judicial examination before an inferior judicatory, from whose decision thereon an appeal is given to the higher judicatory.

The committee also beg leave to suggest, that if the aforesaid reference relates to any matters which were involved in the appeal of the classis of Ulster to General Synod from the decisions of the Particular Synod of Albany in the year 1812, and in the petition of the said classis, presented to General Synod at their last session, those matters have been finally disposed of by General Synod in the years last mentioned, as will more fully appear by the acts and proceedings of General Synod in those years. Wherefore the committee submit, for the consideration of General Synod, the following resolution:

Resolved, That for the reasons stated in the foregoing report, the reference by the Particular Synod of Albany to General Synod relative to the case of the Rev. John Gosman, be and the same is hereby dismissed.

PETER LABAGH, *Chairman.*

The committee to whom was committed the unfinished business in relation to the articles of union, with the translation of the said articles, reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee appointed to revise the translation

of the Articles of Union, to compare it with the original, and attend to unfinished business relating to the same, report—That, excepting a few verbal alterations, which your committee have made in the translation, they have found it generally and substantially correct—that as these articles were framed to answer a temporary, though at that time highly valuable purpose, they ought to be preserved, as an important link in the history of our church, but contain, in the opinion of your committee, no regulations, which make it necessary at this period for your ministers to subscribe the same.

All which is submitted,

PHILIP MILLEDOLER, *Chairman.*

The following resolution was moved and seconded:

Resolved, That the report of the committee, on the last article of the report on Synodical minutes made to the General Synod, in the year 1814, and which relates to the questions proposed by the classis of Poughkeepsie and referred by the Particular Synod of Albany to the General Synod, be and hereby is adopted:

On this resolution, the *previous question* was moved, and the Synod decided that the main question should not be now put.

ARTICLE VIII.

Grievances.

Resolved, That under the article "Grievances," be inserted the names of all those members of this Synod, who have absented themselves, and departed for their homes, or on their private business, without permission, and have not been excused by this Synod.

Resolved, That, accordingly, the names of the Rev. Jacob Brodhead, and Peter A. Overbagh, and the Elder, Mr. William Knickerbacker, be thus recorded as delinquents: And,

And in answer to the second question—That baptism *cannot*, consistently, be administered to a child born of such marriage, although presented by persons members of the church, and in other respects fit sponsors.

All which is respectfully submitted,

PHILIP MILLEDOLER, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That Synod will, at their next session, proceed to examine whether the canon or church order of the Reformed Dutch Church, declaring or adjudging a marriage by a man with a sister of a deceased wife, unlawful, as forbidden in the word of God, ought to *remain* or to *cease* as a rule of discipline in the churches under their care and jurisdiction.

In relation to the second section of the report of the committee on Synodical Minutes, the Synod resolved, that it is inexpedient to grant the request of the Particular Synod of New-York by their delegates, that a committee on missions be appointed to be attached to that body.

The special committee appointed on the third section of the report on Synodical Minutes, reported as follows:

The committee appointed on the third section of the report of on Synodical Minutes report the following resolution :

Reeolved, That the students of our Theological School be directed to apply for licensure to the different classes within whose bounds their parents, or, if they do not live with their parents, they or their own families, respectively reside at the time of their application for examination.

STEPHEN N. ROWAN, *Chairman.*

The Synod resolved, that the consideration of the above report be postponed indefinitely.

The special committee appointed on the fourth section of the report of the committee on Synodical Minutes, reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows :

The committee on the reference from the Particular Synod of Albany to General Synod relative to the case of the Rev. John Gosman, report—That the reference to General Synod by the Particular Synod of Albany for advice in the case of the Rev. John Gosman referred to the said Particular Synod by the classis of Ulster, for their advice, is unaccompanied by any statement of the nature and merits of the case on which General Synod are requested to give advice. That the classis of Ulster state, in their reference to the Particular Synod, of Albany, that certain charges and allegations were, in 1812, brought against Mr. Gosman, who, on being duly notified on the subject, refused to attend—That the said classis, after taking some testimony on the case, became apprehensive of the effects which their proceedings, in the absence of Mr. Gosman, might produce, and therefore concluded to solicit the interference of General Synod—that by reason of misapprehension, the request of the said classis was not presented to General Synod. The committee are unable to discover, from the disclosures made by the aforesaid reference, either the nature or merits of the case of the Rev. Mr. Gosman, or the precise questions before the classis of Ulster, relative to the said case, upon which the Particular Synod of Albany desire the advice of General Synod ; and therefore the committee feel themselves wholly incompetent to form an opinion whether it would be proper for General Synod to advise what course of proceedings the

vacant congregations, by ministers, or candidates from churches, which are known to hold or tolerate sentiments inconsistent with the standards of the Reformed Dutch Church; and further, that the respective classes be hereby directed to enjoin upon the consistories of vacant congregations under their care, not to employ the ministers or candidates of churches, circumstanced as above mentioned, until they have consulted with the standing committee of the classis to which they belong, and have obtained their consent.

ARTICLE XI.

Customs and Usages.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XII.

Schools and Christian Education.

Nothing occurred under this Lemma.

ARTICLE XIII.

Queen's College.

The following resolution was received from the trustees of Queen's College in New-Jersey.

" *New-Brunswick, April, 10th,* 1815.

" *Resolved,* That the Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, Rev. " Jacob Brodhead, and Rev. Peter Labagh, be a com- " mittee to attend General Synod, at Albany, and rep- " resent the interests of this institution.

" *Extracted from the Minutes,*

" WM. P. DEARE, *Clerk.*"

Resolved, That this committee be accredited.

ARTICLE XIV.

Professorate.

The period, for which the board of superintendants was elected, having expired, the Synod proceeded to a new election, and on counting the ballots, it appeared that the following ministers were chosen to form the board of superintendants of the Theological School, until the meeting of General Synod, which shall be in 1818, viz.

Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, Rev. Dr. Phillip Milledoler, Rev. Messrs. Jacob Sickles, Phillip Duryea, James S. Cannon, John Schureman, James V. C. Romeyn, Wilhelmus Eltinge, and Stephen N. Rowan.

The committee on the professorate reported, and their report, having been amended, was adopted and is as follows:

The committee on the professorate, beg leave to report, that they find a variety of important subjects committed to them, to be reported on, viz.

1. *The Treasurer's Accounts.* These have been examined, and the following is the result. It appears by the statement exhibited by Mr. Kip, special treasurer of General Synod, that he has received from June 14th, 1814, till June 5th, 1815, $1225,93—that he has paid to the treasurer of Queen's College, $748,88, for which he has produced vouchers, and also, 57 cents for postage of letters, addressed to him as treasurer: that there remained in his hands, a balance of $477,5: the said treasurer further states, that, hitherto, he has charged no commissions for his services; but as the treasurer of General Synod, is allowed five per cent, if that allowance is continued, he will expect the same. Your committee deem such a demand perfectly just,

Resolved further, That the above named persons be, and they are hereby cited to appear before the General Synod, at their extra meeting (should an extra meeting take place) or at their next ordinary session, to render the reasons for their conduct, and to be dealt with, as the aggravations of their several cases may demand.

The committee on Gravamina reported, and their report, having been amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on Gravamina report, that nothing has been laid before them which demands the attention of this Synod, excepting the case of the Psalm and Hymn Books. On this subject, your committee recommend the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas it is ascertained, that the printer of the second edition of the new Psalm Book, has introduced alterations in several Psalms and Hymns, and has thereby produced many various readings, which render his edition, in those instances, different from the first and standard edition: and whereas, in every edition of the Psalm Book, the greatest uniformity and precision ought to be preserved; and no printer, under any pretext whatever, be permitted to insert any words or phrases of his own, or of any other unauthorised individual: Therefore, the General Synod, impressed with their obligation to watch over the standards of the church, and to discountenance, in the first instance, so dangerous a precedent, have resolved:

1. That the Printer of the second edition of the Psalm Book, has unwarrantably departed from the integrity expected and demanded of every printer of that book.

2. That, as however the various readings introduced in the second edition, make no essential alterations in the doctrines, the same may be used in the churches; and the General Synod, in tenderness to the printer, who, it is presumed, intended no evil, will permit that edition to be in use, until it shall be worn out, but forbid any new edition to be printed from it.

3. As the multiplying of editions will render the book cheaper, and thus accommodate the churches, while it also will increase the income intended to be produced from that source, for the benefit of indigent students, the General Synod recommend that every printer who will pay, or give security, for the payment of the stipulated sums, be afforded, without delay, by the consistory of the church of New-York, the right to publish as many copies as he shall please, conformably to these resolutions.

4. That every future edition shall be printed agreeably to the copy deposited among the archives of General Synod, with a careful emendation of typographical errors.

All which is submitted,

JACOB LARZALERE, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE IX.

Church Government.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE X.

Doctrines and Morals.

Resolved, That it be and hereby is enjoined upon all the classes, under the care of this Synod, to appoint standing committees, whose duty it shall be to guard against the introduction of unsound doctrines, into our

and recommend to Synod, to place both treasurers on the same footing, in respect to payment for services; and further recommend an expression of thanks to Mr. Kip, for his generous and disinterested zeal in the discharge of his trust.

The treasurer of Queen's College states, that the amount of the monies, constituting the professorate fund, is $12,332 57, invested in loans and mortgages, bearing interest at 7 per cent—that the sum of $2,043 66 has been paid by the late treasurer, and $2,620 27 1-2 by him as treasurer, to professor Livingston, on account of his salary.

2. *Applications for dispensations.*

On the subject of granting any farther dispensations, your committee are of opinion, that, in future, none should be granted by this Synod, to any students, to pursue their theological studies elsewhere: that as a considerable fund has been raised for supporting or aiding in the support of indigent students, and as didactic and polemic theology are systematically and ably taught in the school under the care of the Dutch Church, and it is, moreover, contemplated to render the course of studies more complete; this Synod owes it to itself as well from a consideration of its own dignity, as of other circumstances, to shut the door against such grants.

Your committee are, however, of opinion, and recommend, that the present applicants, viz. Messrs. Miller, Amerman, and Bruen, be indulged in their request, on condition that they complete their course of studies in the Dutch Seminary, at New-Brunswick, by attending the lectures of the professor or professors,

there for one year previous to their being admitted to an examination for licensure.

3. *An additional Professor for the Theological School.*

Your committee are fully persuaded of the expediency of such an appointment, and suggest, that during the present session, a suitable person be chosen, to instruct as professor of pastoral theology, and ecclesiastical history, and that the sum of $400 be allowed him for his services.

4. *Ways and Means for increasing the Funds.*

In order to increase the funds so as to meet the necessary expenditures, in supporting the professors, aiding poor students, and adding to the theological library, your committee recommend the appointment of pious and active men within the bounds of each classis, or congregation, to solicit annual subscriptions, to the amount of 50 cents or more, from each subscriber, in addition to the means already devised and practised for supporting these objects, and that such persons be allowed seven per cent, of these collections, for their services.

Whilst on this subject, your committee cannot forbear again to notice the generous proffers of the churches at Albany and New-Brunswick, as stated in former acts of this body, and that they entertain a flattering, yea, confident hope of witnessing a like liberality and zeal in other churches, possessing ample means. They are particularly encouraged in this hope from a growing interest, which appears more and more to obtain, in New-York, in promoting the prosperity of the theological school at New-Brunswick. Your committee do hereby recommend to Synod respectfully to apply to the consistories of the churches, in that

city, either by donations from their funds, or in any other way, to contribute to the promotion of an object so essentially connected with the welfare of the Reformed Dutch Church.

5. Your committee further report, that they are informed that the sum of $2000 has been bequeathed by Miss Rebecca Knox, late a member of the Reformed Dutch Church in Philadelphia, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Brodhead, to the theological institution; to be vested in the hands of the trustees of Queen's College, for the benefit of indigent students. Your committee are informed, that the late Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, (whose pious liberality, this church will ever hold in grateful remembrance) has, by his last will and testament, bequeathed to the institution, of his property, in addition to what he had before given. Your committee, however, can give no precise or specific account of the amount, &c. of said bequest, but feel authorised merely to state the fact.

6. Whereas it appears that the annual collections in the churches, for the professoral fund, are but partially attended to, and that a large number of congregations are habitually delinquent, the committee recommend, that this Synod earnestly urge an attention to this business, and require of each classis distinctly to insert in their minutes, such congregations, as may either be unwilling or remiss on this subject, to the end that it may, through that channel, be brought up to the view of the higher judicatories.

7. The following plan of a Theological College, to be formed by a union between Queen's College and the Professorate, has been under the serious considera-

tion of the committee, and they beg leave to lay it before the Synod.

" Plan of a Theological College, to be formed by a " union between Queen's College, and the Professorate.

" 1. Let this College, when formed, have, for its object, *primarily*, the education of young men for the " Gospel Ministry. For securing this object, the religion of the scriptures, as explained in the Belgic Confession of Faith and Heidelbergh Catechism, shall be " the basis of all the instruction given in this institution. The teachers, if not clergymen, must be professors of religion, or, at least, must subscribe their " assent to the doctrines contained in the above mentioned confession and catechism.

" 2. As it is not probable that so many youth, designed for the ministry, will offer themselves for admission in this College, as to occupy the time and " exersise the talents of the teachers; let a select number, designed for any other profession (say, 20, 30, 40, " 50) be admitted, *speciali gratia*, who shall be subject " to all the rules and regulations of the College. The " age at which students are to be admitted, to be not " less than 14 years.

" 3. Let there be four professors who shall be appointed as follows:

" 1. The professor of theology, by the General Synod of the church, which appointment the trustees " shall approve.

" 2. The professor of Biblical Criticism, in the same " way.

" 3. The professor of Ecclesiastical History, in the " same way.

" 4. The professor of Mathematics, &c. by the trus-
" tees alone.

" 5. Let the three Theological professors be thus
" appointed by General Synod, who shall specify their
" departments in theological studies; their other ser-
" vices to be regulated by the trustees.

" 6. Let the two funds be blended in one, with an un-
" derstanding that Synod will raise, annually, half the
" support of the professors whom they appoint."

Your committee are fully impressed with the utility of such a plan, as calculated to answer the great end contemplated by the Reformed Dutch Church, in furnishing the churches with a pious and able ministry. On the expediency of immediately taking measures, in so important a matter, necessarily involving great alterations in the present plan, subsisting between the trustees and this Synod; they forbear to express a decided opinion: But they recommend it to the serious attention of Synod, and suggest the propriety of appointing a committee to lay the above plan before the trustees of Queen's College, for their consideration.

All which is submitted,

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That at nine o'clock, on Tuesday morning, Synod will proceed to the appointment of an additional professor; that the Rev. John Schureman, Dr. Solomon Frælígh, James S. Cannon, and Dr. John Bassett, be considered as nominated for such appointment; and that the election shall be by ballot.

On Tuesday morning, the Synod proceeded to elect an additional professor, and on counting the ballots, it appeared that the Rev. JOHN SCHUREMAN, was

elected professor of Pastoral Theology, and Ecclesiastical History.

Resolved, That a special committee be appointed to select suitable persons in each congregation or classis, to make the collections contemplated in the above report, and, also, to digest a plan for the direction of such persons in general, and especially as to the payment, and transmission of monies; and that the Rev. Messrs. Stephen N. Rowan, Dr. John M. Bradford, and John J. Christie, be said committee.

This special committee reported, and their report, having been amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

The special committee appointed to select collectors of monies, and to present a plan for their direction, report:

That they recommend the following as suitable persons to be appointed by this Synod, to take up subscriptions, &c. within the bounds of the different classes.

For the Classis of New-York.

Rev. Messrs. Stephen N. Rowan, and Selah S. Woodhull, and the Elders, Dr. Peter Wilson, and Mr. Isaac L. Kip.

For the Classis of Long-Island.

Rev. Dr. John Bassett, Peter I. Van Pelt, Jacob Schoonmaker and David S. Bogart.

For the Classis of Bergen.

Rev. Messrs. John Cornelison, James V. C. Romeyn, Cornelius T. Demarest, Jacob T. Field, and Staats Van Santvoord.

For the Classis of Paramus.

Rev. Messrs. Nicholas Lansing, Wilhelmus Eltinge, John I. Christie, and James Demarest.

For the Classis of New-Brunswick.

Rev. Messrs. James S. Cannon, and Charles Hardenbergh, and Messrs. Jacob R. Hardenbergh and Martin Schenck.

For the Classis of Philadelphia.

Rev. Messrs. Jacob Brodhead, Peter Steddiford, and Peter Labagh, and the Elders, Messrs. Frederic Erringer, and Nicholas Williamson.

For the Classis of Albany.

Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, Rev. Messrs. Jacob Van Vechten, John De Witt, Gilbert R. Livingston, and Mr. Christian Miller.

For the Classis of Poughkeepsie.

Rev. Messrs. Cornelius C. Cuyler, Thomas De Witt, Cornelius D. Westbrook, and Herman Vedder.

For the Classis of Ulster.

Rev. Messrs. Henry Polhemus, Moses Frælígh, Peter S. Wynkoop, and John H. Carle.

For the Classis of Rensselaer.

Rev. Messrs. Jacob Sickles, Ralph A. Westervelt, Peter Van Beuren, Philip Duryea, and Stephen Ostrander.

For the Classis of Montgomery.

Rev. Messrs. Winslow Paige, Abraham Van Horne, David Devoe, John Jacob Wack, and Coenrad Ten Eyck.

Your committee also recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved, That it be considered as the duty of the above named persons, to visit every family within the bounds of their respective classes; to solicit from them donations, and subscriptions, to the amount of fifty cents, and upwards; to receive the money at the time

of subscription, and to deposit it in any bank most convenient to them, in the name of Isaac L. Kip, special treasurer of General Synod, and that the certificate of such deposit, be transmitted to Mr. Kip, so as to enable him to draw for the same.

Resolved, That the special treasurer of General Synod be directed to keep a distinct account of monies received from this source.

Resolved, That the different classical committees above appointed, be requested to commence their collections, by the 1st of July; and that it be, and hereby is earnestly recommended to them, to use due diligence in the discharge of a trust so important and essential to the establishment of our theological school, and the best interests of the Reformed Dutch Church.

And as the minutes of General Synod may not be published in time to inform these committees of their appointment, and as there may be disappointments, owing to the deaths or inability, of the above named persons, to serve on these committees, your committee. further recommend, the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the clerks of the present session, notify the above named persons of their appointment, and of the present plan, through the delegates of the respective classes.

Resolved, That the respective classes, in case any of the above mentioned persons should decline, or be unable to attend to the duties of their appointment, be requested to appoint pious and zealous men in their stead.

All which is submitted,

STEPHEN N. ROWAN, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That a special committee be appointed, on behalf of this Synod, to confer with the board of trus-

tees of Queen's College, on the subject of the plan suggested by the committee on the Professorate, and adopted by this Synod; that this committee, in case of this plan being substantially adopted by the said trustees, shall forthwith transmit information of the same, to the president of this Synod, who is hereby empowered and directed to call an extra meeting of this Synod, to take measures to carry the said plan into immediate operation; and that the Rev. Dr. Milledoller, the Rev. Messrs. Rowan and Woodhull, and the Elders, Messrs. Gilbert and Veghte, be the said committee.

The Rev. John Schureman declared his acceptance of the appointment of Professor of Pastoral Theology, and Ecclesiastical History, in the Theological School, and his resignation of his office as one of the board of superintendants.

Resolved, That his resignation be accepted, and that Synod proceed to the election of a person to supply the vacancy in the board of superintendants, occasioned by the resignation of the Rev. John Schureman, and on counting the ballots, it appeared that the Rev. Jacob Brodhead was chosen.

ARTICLE XV.

Students in Theology.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVI.

Church Visitation.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVII.

Prevailing Sins.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Missions.

The committee on Missions reported, and their report, having been amended, was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on Missions report:

That, deeply impressed with a sense of the importance of the missionary cause, they have sought information from all the sources within their power. From an examination of the minutes of the standing committee of missions, they can state, for the information of Synod, that the Rev. John Duryea, has been paid by them the sum of $150, for services performed in the year 1812, during a tour of four months, but in what part of the church, is not mentioned. In 1814, the Rev. John Duryea was employed by the committee, for two months, in the western parts of this state, and has been paid the sum of $40 for his services.

From the account current, with the standing committee of Missions, between June 2d, 1812, and January 23d, 1815, laid on the table of Synod, by the treasurer, it appears that there is a balance of $315,63 due the committee; that the amount of monies received, for the missionary fund, since June, 1812, is $88,32, and the amount paid out, $400,83. Among the items of expenditure, it is found that the sum of $152,28, has been paid for the printing of the minutes of the last session, of General Synod. Your committee do, therefore, recommend

to this Synod that the sum above mentioned be refunded as soon as possible.

All which is respectfully submitted,

P. I. VAN PELT, *Chairman,*

Resolved, That the standing committee of missions be instructed, besides presenting a copy of their minutes to General Synod, also to make an annual report, including a minute statement of their missionary ground, their prospects, and such accounts and opinions relative to future missions, as they shall deem advisable and useful to communicate to General Synod.

Resolved further, That the said committee be hereafter at liberty to employ missionaries in any parts of this, and the neighboring states, as well as in the province of Upper Canada.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Bradford, and the Rev. Messrs. Jacob Van Vechten, Robert Bronk, and John De Witt, and the Elders, Messrs. Abraham Van Vechten, John N. Bleecker, Elbert Willett, and Leonard Ganse-voort, Jun. be the standing committee of missions.

ARTICLE XIX.

Widow's Fund.

Nothing occurred,

ARTICLE XX.

Particularia.

Resolved, That, hereafter, a new Lemma be inserted, to be called "Synodical Archives."

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to receive all monies brought up to this Synod, for defraying the expenses, and to report to this Synod, as soon as convenient; and that the Rev. James V. C. Romeyn, and Pe-

ter Labagh, and the Elder, Mr. William W. Gilbert, be the said committee. This committee reported, and their report was accepted, and is as follows:

The committee appointed to receive monies for defraying expenses report, that no monies have been placed in their hands for defraying the expenses of the members composing this body.

JAMES V. C. ROMEYN, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the minutes of General Synod of 1797, in case they can be discovered, and provided this does not occur, extracts from the minutes, which are in the possession of Synod, be recorded in their proper place; and that such rules and orders, as the stated clerk may deem important, be printed as part of the Appendix to the minutes of the present session.

Whereas the classis of Ulster have, in their last statistical reports, exhibited a statement of the congregation of Kingston, from which it appears that said classis still consider that minister and congregation to be in their connexion;

And whereas the General Synod have formally dissolved the connexion between the classis of Ulster, and transferred the said minister and congregation to the classis of Poughkeepsie, with which it is connected, pursuant to the above resolution of Synod: Therefore, resolved, that this Synod consider the dissolution between the classis of Ulster, and the minister and congregation of Kingston final and complete, and thro' the medium of the Particular Synod of Albany, order the classis of Ulster to erase Mr. Gosman's name from the list of their ministers, and the congregation of Kingston, from the list of their congregations.

Resolved, That the Rev. Stephen N. Rowan, Selah S

Woodhull, and Dr. Philip Milledoller, be and they are hereby appointed a committee to contract with a printer to publish, under their inspection, a new edition of the constitution and explanatory articles of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, with an appendix, containing the acts and proceedings of the General Synod, amending or altering any of the rules of church government, as well as all additional rules and orders now in force.

The stated clerk made the following report, which was accepted :

The stated clerk reports, that he has examined the trunk, committed to his inspection, and finds that it contains nothing but papers and records of the former classis of Hackensack, dissolved by the formation of the classes of Bergen and Paramus. He requests instruction concerning the disposition of these records.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Stated Cl'k.*

Ordered, That the above named papers be deposited among the Archives of Synod.

Several gentlemen informed the Synod, that as a testimony of the high respect which they entertain for the Rev. Dr. John H. Livingston, they have requested him to permit Mr. Ames, of the city of Albany, to take his portrait, which they design to present to the board of superintendants, for preservation in the Theological Hall in New-Brunswick.

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this Synod be presented to those gentlemen, and that they have liberty to deposit said portrait in the Theological Hall.

Resolved, That it be recommended to all the churches, under the jurisdiction of this Synod, to unite with their Christian brethren, of other denominations, in petitioning

the congress of the United States to pass a law to prevent the transportation and opening of the mail on the Lord's day; and that the following be recommended as the form of such petition:

A Petition.

The undersigned, inhabitants of and state of beg leave to represent to the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled: That in the opinion of your petitioners, the transportation and opening of the mail, on the Lord's day, is inconsistent with the proper observance of that sacred day, injurious to the morals of the nation, and provokes the judgments of the Ruler of Nations. We perceive from the report of the Post-Master-General, on this subject, at your last session, that it is his opinion, *that when peace shall arrive, the necessity* of carrying and opening the mail on the Lord's day, *will greatly diminish.* While, therefore, we congratulate you on the return of peace, we approach you with confidence, and beseech you to take this subject into your serious consideration, and enact such laws, as you, in your wisdom, may deem necessary for the removal of this evil. And we, your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

ARTICLE XXI.

Questorate.

Resolved, That the Questor pay the expenses incurred by the Rev. Messrs. Schureman and Hardenbergh as delegates to the German Synod, amounting to $14,50.

Resolved, That the president give an order on the Questor for the payment of the expenses of printing the

minutes of General Synod in 1814, and 1815, and that in case the monies in his hands are not sufficient, each consistory be requested to pay 25 cents for each copy they receive from the stated clerk.

ARTICLE XXII.

Pastoral Letter.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Resumption and Close.

The minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the stated clerk publish and distribute among the churches one thousand copies of the minutes of this Synod duly authenticated.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Adjournment.

Synod adjourned to meet in the city of New-York on the first Wednesday of June, A. D. 1816.

JNO. SCHUREMAN, *President.*

J. FONDA, } *Clerks.*
J. DE WITT. }

S. S. WOODHULL, *Permanent Clerk.*

Official copy from the original minutes,

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Stated Clerk.*

THE

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD,

OF THE

Reformed Dutch Church

IN

NORTH AMERICA,

CONVENED IN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION,

IN THE

CITY OF NEW-YORK,

OCTOBER 12, 1815.

Albany:

PRINTED BY WEBSTERS AND SKINNERS.

1815.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the GENERAL SYNOD of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America,

Convened in Extraordinary Session, in the City of New-York, on Thursday, the twelfth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifteen. The Session continued from the twelfth day of October to the sixteenth day of October, inclusive.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Opening of the Synod.

The Synod was opened with prayer by the Rev. John Schureman, the President of the General Synod.

ARTICLE II.

Members present.

From the Particular Synod of New-York.

1. *From the Classis of New-York.*

Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Stephen N. Rowan, and James M. Mathews.

Elders, Messrs. William W. Gilbert, James Striker, and Samuel Delamater.

2. *From the Classis of Bergen.*

Rev. James V. C. Romeyn, and John Demarest.

Elders, Messrs. John Van Voorhees, and John Vreeland.

3. *From the Classis of Paramus.*

Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, James Demarest,* and John I. Christie.*

4. *From the Classis of New-Brunswick.*

Rev. John Schureman, John L. Zabriskie,‡ and James S. Cannon.*†

Elders, Messrs. Matthias Lane, Henry Van Arsdalen,* and Ryneer Veghte.*

5. *From the Classis of Long-Island.*

Rev. Peter I. Van Pelt, Jacob Schoonmaker, and Dr. John Bassett.

Elder, Mr. Peter Wyckoff.

6. *From the Classis of Philadelphia.*

Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, and Peter Labagh.

Elders, Messrs. Frederick Erringer,‖ and Nicholas Williamson.

From the Particular Synod of Albany.

1. *From the Classis of Albany.*

Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, Robert Bronk, and John De Witt.

* Appeared on the 2d day of the session. † Rev. Jesse Fonda, the delegate *primarius*, appeared on the 3d day of the session, and took his seat in the place of the Rev. Mr. Cannon. ‡ Obtained leave of absence on the 3d day of the session.

‖ Obtained leave of absence from the 4th day of session.

Elders, Messrs. Stephen Van Rensselaer, and Philip S. Schuyler.

2. *From the Classis of Poughkeepsie.*

Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook, and John Gosman.

Elders, Messrs. Richard Rapelje, and Henry H. Schoonmaker.

3. *From the Classis of Ulster.*

Rev. Henry Polhemus, and Peter A. Overbagh.

Elder, Mr. Josiah R. Elting.

4. *From the Classis of Rensselaer.*

Rev. Jacob Sickles, and Philip Duryea.

5. *From the Classis of Montgomery.*

None appeared.

ARTICLE III.

Moderators.

Rev. John Schureman, President.

Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, Adsessor.

Rev. John De Witt and Jesse Fonda, Clerks *pro tempore.*

Rev. Jesse Fonda having obtained leave of absence on the third day of the session, Rev. Stephen N. Rowan was appointed Clerk in his stead.

ACTS OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE III.

Communications.

The President informed the Synod, that the committee, appointed at the last session, to confer with

the board of trustees of Queen's College, had transmitted information, that the plan adopted by the Synod, in relation to a Theological College, had been substantially adopted by that board. In consequence of this information, and agreeably to the direction of the Synod, he had called this extra meeting, to take measures to carry the said plan into immediate operation.

The above mentioned committee of conference reported, and their report was *accepted*, and is as follows :

" The committee, appointed by the General Synod
" at their last session, to confer with the board of trus-
" tees of Queen's College, on the subject of the plan
" of a Theological College,

" *Report*,

" That the Rev. Dr. Milledoler, in consequence of
" the serious illness of one of his family, was not able
" to attend to the business of the committee ; but the
" other members, agreeably to their instructions, met
" at New-Brunswick, on the 18th of July, 1815 ; that
" they proceeded to execute the duties of their appoint-
" ment ; and that by the authenticated extract from
" the minutes of the board of trustees of Queen's Col-
" lege, herewith presented, it appears, that the said
" trustees have acceded to and adopted the plan of a
" Theological College submitted to them, as adopted
" by General Synod.

" *All which is respectfully submitted*,

" STEPHEN N. ROWAN,
" S. S. WOODHULL,
" Wm. W. GILBERT,
" RYNEER VEGHTE, } Committee.

" *New-Brunswick, July* 18*th*, 1815."

The following is the extract referred to in the above report, viz :

" *College Hall, New-Brunswick,*
" *July* 18*th*, 1815.

" *Resolved*, That the plan of a Theological College, " to be formed by a union between Queen's College " and the Professorate, as laid before this board, by " the committee of the General Synod, be and the " same is hereby acceded to and adopted.

" *Resolved*, That the Rev. James S. Cannon and " Peter Labagh, and Jacob R. Hardenbergh, Esq. be a " committee to attend the General Synod at their next " meeting, to carry the plan into a more formal and " detailed operation.

" *Extract from the minutes,*

" J. R. HARDENBERGH, Clk. p. t."

The following communication was also received, viz :

" *Board of Trustees of Queen's College,*
Sept. 25*th*, 1815.

" *Resolved*, That James Schureman, Esq. and the " Rev. W. Eltinge, be added to the committee ap- " pointed to attend the next meeting of General Synod.

" *Extract from the minutes,*

" Wm. P. DEARE, Clk. of the Board.

ARTICLE XIV.

Professorate.

Resolved, That a special committee be appointed to inquire of the several committees appointed at the last

session to take up collections throughout the Church, as to their progress and success; and that the Rev. James V. C. Romeyn, Jacob Sickles and John DeWitt, be the said committee.

Resolved, That the Rev. Drs. Philip Milledoler and Jacob Brodhead, and the Rev. Stephen N. Rowan, and the Elders Messrs. Gilbert and Erringer be a committee, to confer with the committee of the board of trustees of Queen's College, on the plan for blending the Theological and Literary Schools at New-Brunswick; and that they be authorised to present such details of said plan to General Synod, as may appear necessary for carrying the same into complete and immediate operation.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford and James M. Mathews, be added to the above committee of conference.

The special committee appointed to inquire of the several committees appointed to take up collections throughout the Church, as to their progress and success, reported, " That the means of obtaining suitable and sufficient " information on the subject are very limited; as far, " however, as they can learn, the prospect in many places, " particularly in our cities, is very favorable; and such " as should encourage us to persevere in the proposed " system; the sums collected by each committee cannot " now be ascertained, on account of the absence of some " of the committees.

" JAMES V. C. ROMEYN, Chair'n."

The committee appointed to confer with the committee of the board of trustees of Queen's College, reported, and their report was accepted, and is as follows:

" The committee appointed to confer with the com-

" mittee of the board of trustees of Queen's College, re-
" port that they have conferred with the committee of the
" board of trustees, on the business to them referred,
" and offer the following plan as the result of that confer-
" ence.

" *All which is submitted,*

" P. MILLEDOLER, Chair'n."

The plan, after being amended, was ADOPTED, and is as follows, viz.

Details of the plan of a *Theological College* to be formed by a union between Queen's College and the Professorate.

I. *Object of the Institution.*

This College shall have for its object, *primarily*, the education of young men for the Gospel Ministry.

II. *The number and appointment of Professors.*

1. In this institution, there shall be FOUR Professors.

1st. A Professor of Systematic Theology;
2d. A Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Church Government and Pastoral Duties;
3d. A Professor of Biblical Criticism;
4th. A Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.

2. These professors shall be appointed in the manner following, viz.

The professors of Systematic Theology, of Ecclesiastical History, and of Biblical Criticism, by the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, which appointment the trustees shall approve; and the professor of Ma-

thematics and Natural Philosophy by the board of trustees of Queen's College *alone*.

3. The three professors appointed by the General Synod must be ministers of the gospel; and the professor appointed by the board of trustees must be a professor of religion, or at least must subscribe, as well as the other professors, to the doctrines contained in the Belgic Confession of Faith and Heidelbergh Catechism.

4. Every professor intending to resign, shall give six months notice to the board of superintendents; who shall be authorised, in case of his resignation or removal by death, during the recess of Synod, to employ some person or persons to perform the duties of his professorship.

5. Any professor, excepting the *present* professor of Systematic Theology, declining or refusing to discharge the duties assigned him by this plan, shall be considered as resigning his professorship; and the General Synod and the board of trustees shall thereupon proceed to the choice of a professor in his stead, conformably to the principles of the present plan.

6. The General Synod will proceed to the choice of a professor of Biblical Criticism, as soon as sufficient monies shall be realised from the present and future collections, for his support.

III. *Duties of the Professors in the Literary Department.*

1. The professor of Systematic Theology is required to teach in the Literary Department, Moral Philosophy, Logic and the Philosophy of the Human Mind.

2. The professor of Ecclesiastical History, &c. is required to teach Belles Lettres, Roman and Grecian antiquities, General History, Composition and Elocution.

3. The professor of Biblical Criticism is required to teach the Greek and Latin Languages.

IV. *Duties of the Professors in the Theological Department.*

Each professor shall deliver at least two lectures in every week to the Theological students, and accompany them with prayer at the commencement and close.

V. *Salaries of the Professors.*

1. The salary of each of the professors shall for the present be fourteen hundred dollars; and hereafter shall be fixed by the General Synod and the board of trustees.

2. The Synod shall pay annually *half* the salaries of the professors whom *they* appoint; and the board of trustees shall pay the other *half;* on condition of their performing such duties in the literary department as are assigned them in this plan.

3. As the present venerable Professor was called in faith of receiving his salary from the proceeds of the fund already put into the hands of the board of trustees of Queen's College, in trust for the support of a Theological professorship in said College; the proceeds of those funds, so far as they will go, are to be considered as pledged for his support, as long as he retains the office of professor of Theology; the deficiency to be made up by the General Synod, out of the monies collected under their order of June, 1815.

4. The Synod declare that after Dr. Livingston shall cease to receive the proceeds of the present Professorate funds, the said proceeds shall be employed by this Synod, in payment of their half of the salaries of the profess-

ors whom they shall appoint in the Theological College at New-Brunswick.

5. All monies now raised or hereafter accruing to Synod, from collections under the order of June, 1815, relating to the Theological professorate, shall be employed by them for the fulfilment of their part of the contract with the board of trustees for the payment of the professors; it being understood, that the monies hereafter collected in New-Jersey for the Theological College, belong to the board of trustees, and are to be employed by them for the fulfilment of their part of the contract with the General Synod; and it being further understood, that this arrangement does not preclude Synod from taking up at any time collections in all their Churches for the ordinary purposes of Synod.

6. All the monies collected by the General Synod shall be at their own disposal.

VI. *Students.*

1. The age at which students are to be admitted into the Literary department, shall not be less than fourteen years.

2. The time and course of study in the Theological department, shall not be less than three years.

3. Theological students at the expiration of three years of regular study, shall be admitted to an examination, to be conducted by the professors before the board of superintendents, and as the case may require, be continued longer in the school, or furnished with a certificate signed by the professors, which shall admit them to an examination for licensure.

4. The students of Theology shall, after the first year,

present to the professors, at least once every *month*, a lecture or sermon upon such subjects as the professors shall appoint; they shall deliver before the professors a lecture or sermon once every *week* in *rotation;* and the class annually leaving the institution, or so many of them as the professors may determine, shall deliver sermons before the board of superintendents.

5. Every student, upon admission into the Theological department, shall produce a certificate of his membership in some Protestant Church, and testimonials of his academic attainments, or submit to an examination upon academic studies.

VII. *Faculty of the College.*

1. The president, professors, and tutors of the College, together with three persons appointed by the board of trustees out of their own body, shall constitute the faculty of the College.

2. The board of trustees shall select from the professors appointed by the Synod, the president of the College.

3. In each year there shall be two vacations at such times as shall be agreed upon by the superintendents and board of trustees; the whole time of vacation in any one year not to exceed three months.

VIII. *Board of Superintendents of the Theological Department.*

1. The General Synod shall appoint a board of superintendents, consisting of nine persons, all of whom shall be members of the Dutch Church, to be chosen in the following manner, viz: From the particular Synod of New-York, three ministers; from the particular Synod of Albany, three ministers; and from the board of trustees of

Queen's College, three ministers. This board shall be chosen by ballot once in three years.

2. The board of superintendents shall meet annually in the professoral hall; and any four members, when regularly convened, shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

3. This board shall open and close all their meetings with prayer; and shall cause one sermon at least to be preached at every ordinary meeting, either by their president, or some other member appointed for that purpose.

4. This board shall choose a president, stated clerk, and secretary; keep minutes of all their transactions; and lay them with a summary account of the state of the school, before General Synod, at every stated meeting.

5. The board shall superintend an annual examination of all the students, to ascertain their talents and proficiency.

6. This board shall be competent to censure or remove immoral or incompetent students of Theology; to take cognizance of the doctrines taught by the professors; to regulate the general course of study; and to recommend to Synod such measures or changes as they may think advantageous to the school, and to the general interests of the Dutch Church.

7. The president of this board shall be authorized to call a special meeting, at the written request of any two professors, or of any two members, at any time, on giving four weeks previous notice.

Resolved, That if it shall appear that, according to the details of the above plan, the board of trustees shall not be able to raise sufficient funds to defray their part of the

expense incurred by calling the different professors in the Theological school—this Synod will assist them to the utmost of their power.

Resolved, That the permanent clerk be, and hereby is directed to present to the board of trustees of Queen's College, an attested copy of the detailed plan of the Theological College adopted by this Synod.

Resolved, That all the monies collected or subscribed, under the order of June, 1815, be *funded;* and that William W. Gilbert, Esq. and Dr. Peter Wilson, be associated with the special treasurer, Guisbert B. Vroom, Esq. as a committee of finance to carry this resolution into effect.

Resolved, That the several committees, appointed in June, 1815, to make collections for the Theological Institution, be and they are hereby directed forthwith to apply to every Consistory within the bounds of the several Classes, (each committee to the Consistories of its own Classis) and request from them, in behalf of the General Synod, such donations or annual subscriptions, as they may be willing to give, to aid the Synod in supporting their professors of Theology.

Resolved, That the professor of Ecclesiastical history, Church government and Pastoral duties, be inaugurated into his office, in the Dutch Church, at New-Brunswick, on the 3d Tuesday in November, at 11 o'clock, A. M: and that, in addition to the inaugural address to be delivered on that occasion by the professor, Dr. Milledoler, be, and he hereby is appointed to preside and deliver a sermon, and the Rev. James S. Cannon to deliver a charge to the professor.

The Rev. John Schureman, resigned his office as president of this Synod; and the Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, was appointed in his stead.

The Rev. Mr. Schureman did then, agreeably to the constitution, and in the presence of Synod, sign the formula appointed to be signed by professors of Theology.

Resolved, That the Rev. Mr. De Witt, pro tempore clerk, and Dr. Bradford, be a committee to draught a copy of a certificate of the appointment of the Rev. John Schureman, as professor of Ecclesiastical history, Church government, and Pastoral duties.

Dr. Bradford, from the above mentioned committee, reported the following form of a certificate; which being adopted, was signed by the Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, as president, in the presence of the Synod, and presented so signed to professor Schureman.

The following is the Form of the Certificate, viz:

" To the Rev. John Schureman,

" The General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church
" in North America, reposing confidence in your piety,
" learning and talents, have elected you a professor in
" their Theological College at New-Brunswick. The
" branches, in which you are to instruct the youth com-
" mitted to your charge, are Ecclesiastical history, Church
" government, and Pastoral duties. The details of your
" duty will be regulated by the faculty of the College
" and the board of superintendents. For the assumption
" of the powers and the execution of the duties of your
" office, in the Theological department of the College, this

" is your commission ; and may the HEAD of the
" Church render your labors useful and pleasant.

" Signed by order of Synod,

JACOB BRODHEAD, President."

" *New-York, October* 16*th*, 1815."

ARTICLE XXI.

Questorate.

A communication was received from Mr. Isaac L. Kip, special treasurer of General Synod, requesting the Synod to settle the *per centage* to be allowed to their treasurers.

Whereupon *resolved*, that a special committee be appointed to wait on Mr. Sickles, the questor of this Synod, and ascertain whether he will hereafter perform the duties of questor *gratuitously ;* and that the Rev. Stephen N. Rowan, Peter I. Van Pelt, and Cornelius D. Westbrook, be the said committee.

Resolved further, that this committee wait on Mr. Kip, and ascertain whether he also will hereafter perform the duties of his office *gratuitously.*

This special committee reported and their report was *accepted*, and is as follows :

" The committee appointed to call on Messrs. John H.
" Sickles, and Isaac L. Kip, treasurers of Synod, to know
" whether they would serve without compensation,

" *Report*,

" That they called on the above mentioned gentlemen,
" and were told by Mr. Sickles, that he had not receiv-
" ed, nor did he expect to receive any compensation for
" his services ; that Mr. Kip informed them that he would
" rather give up his office as treasurer, altogether ; but

" if continued, would charge $2\frac{1}{2}$ per centum as a com-
" pensation for his services.

" *All which is submitted.*

" S. N. ROWAN,
" P. T. VAN PELT, } Committee.
" C. D. WESTBROOK,

Resolved, That Guisbert B. Vroom, Esq. be, and he is hereby appointed special treasurer of General Synod ; and he is hereby authorized to call on Isaac L. Kip, for all monies, books, papers and accounts belonging to Synod, which may be in his hands, for which he will give Mr. Kip his receipt.

Guisbert B. Vroom, Esq. appeared in Synod, and declared his acceptance of the office of special treasurer of General Synod.

Resolved, That all monies, which, by former resolutions of Synod, were payable to Isaac L. Kip, be paid to Guisbert B. Vroom, special treasurer of General Synod.

Resolved, That the questor pay to Messrs. Rowan and Woodhull $12, for attending a meeting of the board of trustees of Queen's College, as a committee of conference from General Synod ; and to the doorkeeper $9 1-00.

Resolved, That the questor pay for the printing of the minutes of the present session of Synod, out of any monies which he may have in his hands for defraying the expenses of delegates.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Resumption and Close.

The minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the stated clerk publish and distribute among the Churches seven hundred copies of the minutes of this Synod, duly authenticated.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Adjournment.

Synod having finished the business for which they were convened, adjourned. Concluded with prayer.

JACOB BRODHEAD, *President.*

JOHN DE WITT, } *Clerks.*
STEPHEN N. ROWAN, }

S. S. WOODHULL, *Per. Clerk.*

Official copy from the original minutes.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Stated Clerk.*

THE

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD,

OF THE

Reformed Dutch Church,

IN

NORTH AMERICA,

AT NEW-YORK,

JUNE, 1816.

Albany:

PRINTED BY WEBSTERS AND SKINNERS.

1816.

Acts and Proceedings

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, convened in the City of New-York, on Wednesday the 5th day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixteen—The Session continued from the 5th day of June to the 13th day of June inclusive.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Opening of the Synod.

The Synod was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, the President of the last General Synod, who preached on Wednesday evening a Synodical Sermon on Psalm cxxii. 7.

ARTICLE II.

Members present.

From the Particular Synod of New-York.

1. *From the Classis of New-York.*

Rev. Dr. Gerardus A. Kuypers, Thomas G. Smith, and Selah S. Woodhull.†

Elders, Messrs. Henry Rutgers, James Striker, and Elias Nexsen.*

† Rev. Christian Bork took his seat as Primarius, on the 2d day of the session.
* Took his seat on the 2d day of the session.

2. *From the Classis of Bergen.*

Rev. John Cornelison, Staats Van Santvoord, and Cornelius T. Demarest.*

Elders, Messrs. Cornelius Kip* and John Vreeland.†

3. *From the Classis of New-Brunswick.*

Rev. John S. Vredenburgh, James S. Cannon, and Charles Hardenbergh.

Elders, Messrs. John Garritson, Garrit R. Garritson, and Benjamin Arrowsmith.

4. *From the Classis of Paramus.*

Rev. Dr. Solomon Fræligh, Stephen Goetschius, and Wilhelmus Eltinge.

Elders, Messrs. Matthew Bogert, Albert I. Zabriskie, and Michael Ryer.

5. *From the Classis of Long-Island.*

Rev. Jacob Schoonmaker, Peter I. Van Pelt, and John Beattie.*

Elder, Mr. Isaac R. Houseman.

6. *From the Classis of Philadelphia.*

Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, Peter Labagh, and Peter Steddiford.

Elders, Messrs. Philip Peltz, and Peter Quick.

From the Particular Synod of Albany.

1. *From the Classis of Poughkeepsie.*

Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler, Thomas De Witt, and William M'Murray.

Elders, Messrs. Isaac Davis, Thomas I. Storm, and Robert Forrest.‡

* Took his seat on the 2d day of the session.
† Took his seat on the 5th day of the session.
‡ Took his seat on the 3d day of the session.

2. *From the Classis of Albany.*

Rev. Gilbert R. Livingston, Jacob Van Vechten, and John De Witt.*

Elders, Mr. Cornelius Z. Van Santvoord.

3. *From the Classis of Ulster.*

Rev. Moses Frælígh, and Peter D. Frælígh.†

Elders, Messrs. William Crist, and John Constable.†

4. *From the Classis of Rensselaer.*

Rev. Jacob Sickles, and Ralph A. Westervelt.†

Elder, Mr. Garrit Van Denbergh.†

5. *From the Classis of Montgomery.*

Rev. Jacob A. H. Hasbrouck.‡||

ARTICLE III.

Moderators.

Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, was chosen President.

Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler was chosen Adsessor.

Rev. Thomas De Witt and Jacob Van Vechten were chosen Clerks *pro tempore.*

ARTICLE IV.

Reading of Minutes.

The minutes of the last ordinary session, and the extraordinary session of the General Synod were read.

ACTS OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Orders and Rules.

These were read.

* The Rev. Thomas Romeyn, the Primarius, took his seat in the place of Mr. De Witt, on the afternoon of the first day of the session.

† Obtained leave of absence on the 8th day of the session.

‡ Took his seat on the 2d day of the session.

|| Obtained leave of absence on the 7th day of the session.

ARTICLE II.

Standing Committees.

The following committees were appointed:

Committee on the Professorate, Rev. Peter Labagh, Cornelius C. Cuyler, Selah S. Woodhull, James S. Cannon, and Wilhelmus Eltinge; and the Elders, Messrs. Henry Rutgers, and Philip Peltz. Rev. Jacob Sickels was afterward added to this committee, in consequence of the seat of the Rev. S. S. Woodhull becoming vacant on the arrival of the Primarius, Rev. Christian Bork.

Committee on Synodical Minutes, Rev. John Cornelison, and Jacob Schoonmaker, and the Elder, Mr. James Striker.

Committee on correspondence, Rev. William M'-Murray, Jacob Van Vechten, and John S. Vredenburgh; and the Elders, Messrs. Matthew Bogert, and Albert I. Zabriskie.

Committee on Missions, Rev. Dr. Solomon Frælígh, Jacob Sickels, Peter I. Van Pelt, and Thomas G. Smith; and the Elder, Mr. Isaac Davis.

Committee on the State of Religion, Rev. Dr. Gerardus A. Kuypers, Ralph A. Westervelt, Charles Hardenbergh, and Staats Van Santvoord; and the Elder, Mr. Thomas I. Storm. The Rev. James S. Cannon was afterwards added to this committee.

Committee on Gravamina, Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler, Stephen Goetschius, Moses Frælígh, and Gilbert R. Livingston; and the Elder, Mr. John Garritson.

ARTICLE III.

Communications.

The account current of Mr. John N. Bleecker was received, and is as follows:

Dr. *The Committee of Missions for the Dutch Church, in account current with John N. Bleecker,* Cr.

1815.		
June 6.	By balance due the committee as per account transmitted to the General Synod at their session the 6th June, 1815,	$315 63
8.	By cash received of John H. Sickels,	100
1816.		
March 28.	By cash received from the Rev. William M'Murray,	36 6
June 3.	By balance due the committee,	$451 69

Albany, 3d June, 1816.

JOHN N. BLEECKER.

The above communication was referred to the Committee on Missions.

The following communication was received from the Stated Clerk, viz.

The Stated Clerk of General Synod begs leave to report, that the expenses of printing the minutes of 1815, tho' ordered to be paid, have not yet been received, there being no money in the treasury. The amount is

For the Session in June,	$152 00
For the Session in October,	42 00
That a new book for recording the minutes has become necessary, and has been purchased,	10 00
Total	$204 00

That the salary of the Stated Clerk has not been paid. His allowance for the three last sessions amounts to $54.

He respectfully asks that Synod would provide means to defray these expenses, and order them to be paid.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Stated Clerk.*

Albany, June 2, 1816.

The above communication was referred to the committee on Synodical Minutes.

A communication was received from Messrs. Albert Amerman and Matthias Bruen, jun. requesting that they may have a full dispensation from studying at New-Brunswick, which communication was referred to the committee on the professorate.

The following report was received, viz.

The Committee of Missions agreeably to a resolution of Synod, report—

That during the past year, constant attempts to obtain suitable missionaries have failed of success; that the Rev. John P. Spinner offered his services, which were declined, because he could not preach in the English language; that the Rev. Messrs. Isaac Labagh and Bork made intimations that they were willing to take a missionary tour, were appointed to itinerate in Upper Canada for three months, but have not yet received their instructions and credentials, or set out on their mission: That they consider some parts of the church on the river Delaware in the state of New-Jersey, the western parts of the state of New-York, and the Province of Upper Canada, proper missionary ground, a wide field which our means are not sufficient to cultivate in any adequate manner; that so few missionaries offer, and the funds are so small, that your committee can state no pleasing prospects whatever for the missionary cause, but are decidedly of opinion that decaying and destitute congregations of our own order, and our distant frontier settlements, deserve our special care, and offer a richer harvest than distant foreign missions. Your committee submit the above and crave the counsel and direction of General Synod on the important business of their appointment.

The above report was referred to the committee on missions appointed by this Synod.

The following report was also received, viz.

The committee appointed to contract with a printer, to publish under their inspection a new edition of the

Constitution of the Reformed Dutch Church, report—That in execution of their trust, they contracted with Mr. George Forman, to print and publish one thousand copies of the Constitution and explanatory articles, together with an appendix containing rules and church orders from 1794 to 1815. That they have taken out a copy right of said Constitution, &c. in their own names, in trust for the General Synod ; and that in consideration of this copy right, Mr. Forman has bound himself to pay to General Synod six cents for each copy of which he disposes, and to give General Synod six copies for their use at their sessions in New-York and Albany.

They further report—That they carefully corrected the proof-sheets as they passed through the press ; and that the present is free from many typographical errors which had crept into the former edition. The committee, with this report, present to General Synod the six copies stipulated for with Mr. Forman.

STEPHEN N. ROWAN, *Chairman.*

New-York, June 6th, 1816.

Resolved, That the above report be accepted, and that the thanks of General Synod be presented to the committee for their services.

The board of superintendents reported, and their report was accepted, and referred to the committee on the professorate. The report is as follows :

The board of superintendents of the Theological College of the Reformed Dutch Church, report to General Synod—That they met and were regularly constituted at New-York, on the 11th of October, 1815.

The students found in the seminary at that time were ten in number ; of whom five were of the standing of two years and upward, and five of one year and upward.

On the 21st of November last, the following young gentlemen were admitted into the Theological Institution, namely—Walter Monteith, Cornelius Bogardus, David R. De Forest, Brogun Huff, and Stephen Haasbrook. The gentleman last named was obliged, in consequence of severe indisposition, to leave the school shortly after his admission, and is not expected to return.

At a special meeting of the Board, held at New-Brunswick, May 28th, 1816, they were furnished by Professor Livingston, with the following list of students composing the school, with their respective times of standing, viz.

Isaiah Y. Johnstone, William R. Bogardus, Ara Neil, Cornelius C. Eltinge, and Jacob S. Schults,	*of three years' standing.*
John A. Burtiss, Frederic Vermeul, Samuel A. Van Vranken, Isaac Newton Wyckoff, & Peter Van Zandt, Jun.	*of two years' standing.*
Walter Monteith, David R. De Forest, Cornelius Bogardus, & Brogun Huff,	*of one year's standing.*

A general examination of the seminary was then had on didactic and pastoral theology; and the senior class, in addition to the above, was examined on church history and the Hebrew language. The board received great pleasure from that examination; and they feel constrained to express to General Synod, their entire and decided approbation of the course of instruction pursued in the seminary, of the fidelity of the

professors, as well as of the diligence and attainments of the students.

They consider the students, as having in their examination done great honor to themselves, as well as to the seminary in which they have been educated; and the board take occasion most cordially to recommend *this school*, which has been the object of so many prayers and of so much solicitude, to the confidence and patronage of ALL THE CHURCHES.

After closing the examination, the five young gentlemen above named, of the senior class, were recommended to receive professoral certificates, in order to their examination for licensure.

From information received by the board, it is expected the school will have an accession to its present number for the coming year.

As the young men educated in our seminary, under the patronage of General Synod, were originally intended to supply the wants of our own churches; and as in the Providence of God, some of them may be immediately called, and others removed, after the lapse of a short time from their first settlements, to churches of other denominations, the board have deemed it both equitable and expedient to ask from each individual receiving aid from them, a note without interest, obligating them to refund the monies so received, in case they shall, either while licentiates, or within ten years after settlement, leave the Reformed Dutch Church, and attach themselves to any other denomination.

By a vote of the board, passed October 11th, 1815, the sum of $400 was put at the disposal of a committee, for aiding indigent students, and the further sum of $300 on the 29th May, 1816. Of this sum $100 have been presented to one of the students; and for $325, they have received notes payable on demand, without interest.

As some difficulty had arisen, respecting the time of admitting students into the Theological School, and of examining the senior class, for receiving professoral certificates, the board of superintendents request the General Synod to take order on that subject.

They also request, as the funds for the support of indigent students are at present quite inadequate to the object contemplated, that General Synod will take prompt and efficient measures to replenish those funds.

All which is respectfully submitted,

PHILIP MILLEDOLER, *President.*

A true copy from the minutes of the Board of Superintendents,

STEPHEN N. ROWAN, *Secretary.*

New-York June 6th, 1816.

A communication was received from Messrs. William W. Phillips, Samuel Kissam and Dillon C. Beebe, students in the Theological Seminary of New-York, requesting a dispensation so as to allow of their admission to an examination for licensure in the Reformed Dutch Church, after they shall have studied during the next year in the Theological College of the Reformed Dutch Church.

The above communication was referred to the committee on the professorate.

A communication was received from the Rev. John Duryee, which was referred to the standing committee of missions.

The following communication was received, viz.

Extract from the Minutes of the Associate Reformed Synod, in session at Philadelphia, May 15, 1816.

Dr. Mason, seconded by Dr. Proudfit, moved the following: Resolved, that be and they hereby

are appointed as commissioners on the part of this Synod, to meet, on the day of in the city of New-York, with commissioners to be appointed on the part of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, (provided it shall be agreeable to that reverend body,) for the purpose of considering whether any, and if any, what measures may be adopted for extending the good understanding happily subsisting between the two churches, and for combining their efforts in some efficient co-operation for promoting the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom, and that the said commissioners report their proceedings in the premises to this Synod at its next meeting.

The resolution was laid on the table for consideration.

Called up the resolution laid on the table yesterday, respecting the appointment of commissioners to meet other commissioners from the Reformed Dutch Church.

The question being put, the resolution passed unanimously, and the blank was filled with the names of the Rev. Ebenezer Dickey, the Rev. Dr. Alexander Proudfit, and the Rev. Dr. John M. Mason, and Mr. Joseph Nourse, and the Hon. Ebenezer Clark, ruling Elders; and the 13th day of June, appointed for the day of meeting. Dr. Mason was appointed to prepare the draft of a friendly and respectful communication, to be addressed by this Synod to the Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, and presented by the above commissioners. The member, having retired, returned and presented a draft, which was adopted.

A true extract,

ARTHUR J. STANSBURY, *Clerk.*

To the Rev. Præses and Members of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, with grace, mercy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reverend and beloved Brethren,

In considering the signs of the times and their aspect toward the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, we have been forcibly impressed, not only with the desirableness, but also with the necessity, of a public co-operation in counsel and action, by those churches whose relative circumstances render it practicable. And we have thought, that with the good hand of God upon us, it may perhaps be effectual between your churches and ours with mutual benefit, and to the glory of His blessed Name. We are one, and always have been one, in the doctrine which is according to godliness. Our fathers, in those searching times, when the faithful were called to endure, for the elect's sake, bonds and imprisonments, and even to the testimony of their blood, were hearty and generous supporters of each other. Their descendants to this hour, have obtained mercy to abide in the old path, the good way wherein they walked and found rest unto their souls. We have ourselves lived in harmony; our intercourse unimbittered with collission and strife; and have been enabled, in a comfortable degree, to exemplify that divine declaration, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Our churches have enjoyed hitherto the singular favor of exemption from the contamination of false doctrines. These things, added to the loud call of God our Saviour to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints, have turned our regards in an especial manner, to you; and have excited a hope, that such an understanding and concurrence may be produced as shall redound to the greater advancement of his grace and truth.

In order to ascertain this point, we have judged it to be our duty, Reverend and Honored, to propose an appointment of commissioners from our two General Synods, to meet and consult on this interesting subject as soon as may be; and we do most respectfully and affectionately crave your agreement thereto. In which case, we have chosen our Reverend and Respected brethren, Mr. Ebenezer Dickey, Dr. Alexander Proudfit, and Dr. John M. Mason, Ministers, together with Mr. Joseph Nourse and the Hon. Ebenezer Clark, ruling Elders, as commissioners on our part, to meet with such commissioners as you may be pleased to appoint, in the city of New-York, on Thursday, the 13th day of June next: which will further appear by the extract from our minutes herewith transmitted.

Reverend and Honored,

Our hearts' desire and prayer is, that our heavenly Father may continue among you, in its purity and power, that holy truth of his, which has been your inheritance for ages:—That he would bless and keep you; that he would lift up his countenance upon you, and give you abundance of peace;—and that he would so direct our counsels and influence our hearts, as that we may rejoice together, in a holy concert, as fellow-workers with Him.

In the name and by the authority of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church.

Done at Philadelphia, this 24th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1816.

ARTHUR J. STANSBURY,
Clerk of Synod.

Resolved unanimously, That Synod will proceed now to appoint commissioners on the part of their body; and the Rev. Dr. John H. Livingston, the Rev. Dr. Solomon Frælígh, and the Rev. James S. Cannon, and the

Elders, Mr. Henry Rutgers and Mr. James Striker, were appointed commissioners on the part of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, to meet the commissioners of the Associate Reformed Church, at the time and place, and for the purposes named in their communication.

Resolved, That the Clerk give notice to the commissioners of the Associate Reformed Church of the preceding resolution and appointment of this Synod.

Information being afterward received that the Elder, Mr. Henry Rutgers, was indisposed, the Elder Dr. Peter Wilson, was appointed to act as his secundus.

The following communication was received :

Philadelphia, May 27th, 1816.

Session of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.

Resolved, That the Rev. John B. Romeyn, D. D. Archibald Alexander, D. D. Edward Griffin, D. D. William Neill, D. D. and James Richards, D. D. and Messrs. Divie Bethune and Zechariah Lewis, be a committee to correspond with the Dutch and Associate Reformed Churches, and other churches holding the same creed, and endeavor to ascertain whether the members of these churches will unite with those of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, in the formation of a Society for Foreign Missions ; and if possible, report to the General Assembly a plan of a society to be established for this purpose.

Extract from the minutes,

Attest,

J. J. JANEWAY, *Stated Clerk.*

The above communication was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Jacob Sickels and Wilhelmus Eltinge, and the Elder, Mr. Henry Rutgers.

This committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows :

The committee appointed on the communication from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, proposing the establishment of a Foreign Missionary Society, report:

That from the information they have obtained, respecting the views of the General Assembly on this interesting subject, they find it their duty to recommend to this Synod, that commissioners be appointed on their part to meet the commissioners of the General Assembly for the purpose of arranging a plan for the formation of a Society for Foreign Missions, and that they report to the next General Synod.

JACOB SICKLES, *Chairman.*

The Synod accordingly proceeded to the appointment of commissioners ; and did appoint the Rev. Jacob Sickles, Dr. Philip Milledoler, John Schureman, Wilhelmus Eltinge, and Dr. Solomon Frælígh, and the Elders, Mr. Henry Rutgers and Mr. Stephen Van Rensselaer.

Resolved, That the Clerk give notice to the commissioners of the General Assembly, of the above appointment, and also to such of the commissioners appointed by this Synod as are not members of this body.

ARTICLE IV.

Correspondence.

The committee of correspondence, reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows :

The committee on correspondence report, that since the last meeting of General Synod, no communications have been received, either from the Synod of North Holland, or from the Synod of the Reformed German Church in Pennsylvania ; neither have any been trans-

mitted to them from this body; and that there are no documents on the subject requiring the attention of Synod.

The committee recommend that the friendly intercourse with the General Synod be cultivated; and that delegates be appointed to attend their meetings as often as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM M'MURRAY, *Chairman.*

A motion was made and seconded that Synod proceed to the appointment of delegates to the German Synod.

Resolved, That the further consideration of this motion be postponed until Friday afternoon.

On Friday afternoon the Synod resolved to appoint delegates to the German Synod; and appointed the Rev. Dr. Solomon Fræligh and Cornelius C. Cuyler, delegates primarii, and the Rev. Christian Bork and Peter Labagh, delegates secundi.

ARTICLE V.

Synodical Reports on the State of the Churches.

In consequence of an inquiry which was made of the Synod it was *resolved,* that hereafter the blacks within the bounds of our congregations be enumerated as a part of them, excepting those who belong to other denominations.

The committee on the state of religion, reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on the state of religion report—

That on an examination of the minutes of the particular Synods of New-York and Albany, (the only source of their information,) they rejoice to find that the Lord still continues to bless the means of grace and to ani-

mate his servants by causing his work to prosper in their hands. During the year past, not only have vacant congregations, some of which had long been destitute of the stated ministry of the word and ordinances, been furnished with pastors, but a rich measure of divine influence also has been imparted to many of our societies. Within the bounds of the Particular Synod of Albany, the state of religion appears to be improving. The truths of the gospel are heard by increasing numbers, and with solemn attention. In the congregation of Wynant's Kill, the Divine Spirit has rendered the gospel effectual to the awakening and conversion of many. In the congregations belonging to the Classis of Poughkeepsie, the zealous efforts of the servants of the Redeemer, to promote the interests of his kingdom, have been owned and blessed in a measure which calls for our special gratitude. The church of Poughkeepsie has enjoyed a season unusually refreshing ; many have been awakened ; more than a hundred persons, and those principally from among the young, have been added to the church. The revival has been powerful, and extended its happy influence to the souls of not a few blacks. Among the congregations under the jurisdiction of the Particular Synod of New-York, your committee feel happy to state, that a growing attention has been paid to the gospel ordinances, and that a considerable number of persons have been added to the church of such, we trust, as shall be saved.

Among the means, which appear to have been rendered effectual to the salvation of sinners, are family visitation, catechetical instruction, an increased attention to discipline, the faithful preaching of the word, and the establishment of praying societies ; a due attention to all of which your committee beg leave, earnestly to recommecd to the ministers and congregations under the care of this judicatory, as means ap-

pointed of God for the conversion of sinners and the edification of his people.

Your committee, in addition to the above, subjoin the following statistical tables:

PARTICULAR SYNODS.

New-York and Albany.

Particular Synod of Albany—Classis of Albany.

Churches.	Pastors.	No. of families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion pr. last report.	Received on confession.	Received on certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended	Died.	Total in communion.	Bap'd. Infants	Bap'd. Adults.
Albany,	John M. Bradford, John De Witt,	400	2400	385	12	10	2		6	399	60	1
Coxsackie,	G. R. Livingston,	210	1437	92	8	1	1		1	99	39	2
Boght,	Robert Bronk,	79	497	86	6					92	9	1
Washington & Gibbonsville,		62	390	9		2				11	3	
Niskauna and	Thos. Romeyn,	141	1128	160	25	4	5		16	170	213	2
Amity,	The report of Niskauna and Amity embraces 5 years.											
Helderbergh,	Hars. Van Huysen,	150	800							110		
Jerusalem,		80	500							70		
Salem,		112	600							100		
1st ch. 4th wd. of Schenectady, 2d Schenectady,	Vacant.	68								31	17	2
Schenectady,	Jacob Van Vechten,											
Coeymans, Bethlehem,	Vacant.											

Classis of Rensselaer.

Churches.	Pastors.	No. of families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion pr. last report.	Received on confession.	Received on certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended	Died.	Total in communion.	Bap'd. Infants	Bap'd. Adults.
Saratoga,	Philip Duryea,	104	560	104	3		4		4	99	16	
Easton,		50	296	35	3		2		2	34	8	2
Schaghticoke,	Stephen Ostrander,	60	250	50	8		2		2	54	47	
Tyaskoke,		50	200	50	6	4	2	1	6	51	11	1
Union Village,	Peter Van Beuren,	137	900		1	3	3			94	31	
Schodack,		125	750		6	1	2		3	100	50	2
Wynants-kill,	R. A. Westervelt,	207	1242		6	2	1		1	159	54	
Kinderhook,	Jacob Sickels,	305	2115		7	3		1	5	265	65	
Hillsdale, Argyle, Union Village, Greenbush, Bloomingrove,	Vacant.											

Classis of Ulster.

Churches.	Pastors.	No. families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion pr. last report.	Received on confession.	Received on certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.	Bap'd infants.	Bap'd. adults.
Shawangunk,	Henry Polhemus,	270	1890		17	2	1		2	140		
Paltz,	P. D. Fræligh,	284	1600	112	6	0			3	115		
New Hurley,		179	1092	77	12					89		
Marbletown,	John H. Carle,	250	1715		9				5	65		
Hurley,		36	262		1				5	51		
Ashokan,		63	451							62		
Montgomery,	Moses Fræligh,	214	1150	260	10	1			6	265		
Rochester,	James Murphy,	232	1624			1	3		1	73		
Warwarsink,		152	1064		3	1				49		
Clove,		98	585		1					20		
Saugerties,	Henry Ostrander,	200	1200		1	1	2		3	119		
Catskill,	Peter S. Wyncoop,											
Flatbush,	Peter A. Overbagh,											
Woodstock,												
Neversink,	Vacant.											
Mamakating,												
Bloomingdale												
Klyne Esopus,												
Middletown,												
Beaverdam,												

Classis of Poughkeepsie.

Churches.	Pastors.	No. families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion pr. last report.	Received on confession.	Received on certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.	Bap'd infants.	Bap'd. adults.
Poughkeepsie,	C. C. Cuyler,	300	1900	207	99	5	2	2	5	302	16	30
Kingston,	John Gosman,	280	1750	306	26	3	2	3	5	328	35	
Rhinebeck,	Wm. M'Murray,	130	800	140	8			2	2	144	24	2
Hopewell and	Thos. De Witt,	90	650	105	7	1	4			109	24	2
New-Hackinsack,		108	700	65	17		2		2	78	12	6
Greenbush &	Herman Vedder,	270	1820	150	8	3	1		2	160	30	
Taghanack,												
Redhook,	Andw. N. Kittle,	107		98	5	1	3			101		
Fishkill,	C. D. Westbrook,											
Linlithgow,	Vacant.											
Staatsburgh,												

Classis of Montgomery—*Made no report.*

Particular Synod of New-York.

Classis of Philadelphia.

Churches.	Pastors.	No. families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion pr. last report.	Received on confession.	Received on certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.	Bap'd infants.	Bap'd. adults.
Philadelphia,	Jacob Brodhead,	240			57	7	1	2		240		
North Branch,	Peter Steddiford,	225	912		3	2	1			153		
Harlingen,	William R. Smith,	160	1050		10				4		26	1
Shannick,	Peter Labagh,	173	955							99		
North and S. Hampton,	Jacob Larzaliere,	112	660							78		

We observe with respect to the Particular Synod of New-York, that as their meeting, at their last session, was changed from spring to fall ; owing to this change, the several Classes under the care of this judicatory were unable to furnish the Synod with their usual statistical accounts.

All which is respectfully submitted,

GERARDUS A. KUYPERS, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE VI.

Synodical Appeals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE VII.

Synodical Referrences.

Resolved, That a special committee be appointed, to report to this Synod in relation to the marriage of a man with a sister of a deceased wife, which subject the Synod resolved, at their last session, should be further examined by this Synod ; and that the Rev. Dr. Solomon Fræligh, Wilhelmus Eltinge, Cornelius C. Cuyler, John De Witt and Jacob Sickles ; and the Elders, Messrs. Henry Rutgers and Matthew Bogert, be the said committee. The seat of the Rev. Mr. De Witt being afterward vacated, by the arrival of his primarius, the Rev. Charles Hardenburgh was appointed to fill the vacancy in the above committee.

This committee reported, and their report was amended and adopted, and is as follows :

The committee appointed on the question, whether it be lawful for a man to marry a deceased wife's sister, and whether the canon or church order of the Reformed Dutch Church, declaring or adjudging such marriage unlawful, as forbidden in the word of God, ought to remain as a rule of discipline in the churches under the

care and jurisdiction of this Synod, beg leave to submit the following report :

Your committee are of opinion, that the marriage of a man with a deceased wife's sister, is absolutely unlawful ; and therefore recommend to Synod, the adoption of the following resolutions, viz.

1. *Resolved,* That the sister of a deceased wife is by the divine law, the sister of the surviving husband.

2. *Resolved,* That the canon or church order of the Reformed Dutch Church, declaring or adjudging such marriage unlawful, as forbidden in the word of God, ought to remain as a rule of discipline in the churches under the care and jurisdiction of this Synod.

3. *Resolved,* That therefore, every man who marries the sister of his deceased wife, is by the divine law and the rules of the church, guilty of incest ; and shall, if a member, be cut off from the communion and privileges of the church.

All which is respectfully submitted,

SOLOMON FRÆLIGH, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That it be enjoined on all the ministers of this church, to read from their pulpits to their congregations the preceding decisions of this Synod, on the subject of the marriage of a man with his deceased wife's sister.

The committee on Synodical minutes reported, and their report was accepted, and is as follows :

The committee on Synodical minutes report, that the following subjects seem to require the attention of this body. On the minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany, they find the following particulars :

1. In consequence of a complaint in the minutes of the Classis of Ulster, that the minutes of the General Synod are frequently not forwarded in due season to be acted upon, the Particular Synod of Albany resolved,

that the General Synod be requested to devise means for the more seasonable publication and distribution of their minutes.

2. In the minutes of the Classis of Albany, the Particular Synod find the following question and answer for advice: "The Pastor of the church in Schenectady, "wishes advice on this question, viz.: whether it "is not the duty of a Consistory to inquire into and "be satisfied of the piety of a parent, before they admit "his child to baptism? The Classis returns the follow-"ing answer: That the resolution of the General Sy-"nod of 1804, together with the articles of our church, "and particularly the holy scriptures, give an affirm-"ative answer to the above question." Inasmuch as there exists a diversity of sentiment and practice on this very important subject, the Particular Synod resolved that the subject be referred to the next General Synod for their decision.

3. On the minutes of the Particular Synod of New-York, your committee find nothing claiming the particular attention of this body.

4. Relative to a communication made to General Synod by their stated Clerk, your committee find that there is now due him the sum of $258; your committee would suggest to Synod the propriety of discharging this debt from the contingent fund of Synod, or, if this fund should be insufficient, that Synod order public collections to be immediately made in our churches for paying the account.

All which is humbly submitted.

JOHN CORNELISON,
JACOB SCHOONMAKER, } *Committee.*
JAMES STRIKER.

The first section of the report of the committee on Synodical minutes was referred to a special committee,

consisting of the Rev. James S. Cannon, and Jacob Schoonmaker, and the Elder, Mr. James Striker.

The second section was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Frælígh, William M'-Murray, and John S. Vredenburgh, and the Elders, Messrs. Philip Peltz and Albert J. Zabriskie.

The last section was recommitted.

The special committee on the first section of the report of the committee on Synodical minutes, reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee appointed to devise means for the more seasonable publication and distribution of the minutes of the General Synod beg leave to report, that, whereas the committee believe that the irregular distribution of the minutes heretofore, *has not been owing to any neglect on the part of the stated Clerk*, in order to remedy the evil complained of, your committee would recommend it to Synod to enjoin it upon every Classis to appoint within their bounds one of their Ministers, say the stated Clerk of Classis, whose duty it shall be to distribute among the Ministers and Consistories belonging to the Classis, a proportionate number of the minutes as soon as received; and that every Classis give notice to the stated Clerk of Synod of the person whom they appoint.

All which is submitted,

JAMES S. CANNON,
JACOB SCHOONMAKER, } *Committee.*
JAMES STRIKER,

The special committee, on the second section of the report of the committee on Synodical minutes, reported as follows:

Your committee have taken into consideration the question on the subject of baptism as stated by the Consistory of Schenectady to the Classis of Albany, togeth-

er with the answer of that Classis, and the reference of the Particular Synod of Albany to this General Synod, on the question ; and are of opinion, that the answer of the Classis is incorrect, as they do not find that it is answered by the General Synod in the affirmative *explicitly*. And therefore recommend, that the decision of General Synod of 1804 be so altered as to recommend to the Ministers and Consistories not to admit to baptism the children of parents, who do not manifest evidences, from which, according to the judgment of charity, it may be concluded that they possess faith and piety.

SOLOMON FRÆLIGH, *Chairman.*

This report was taken into consideration, and a motion was made and seconded to strike out so much of the report as follows the word " affirmative." This motion was *lost.* The yeas and nays being called for by more than one third of the members present, were taken, and are as follows :

YEAS—Gerardus A. Kuypers, Thomas G. Smith, Christian Bork, John Cornelison, Staats Van Santvoort, John S. Vredenburgh, James S. Cannon, Charles Hardenbergh, Jacob Schoonmaker, Peter I. Van Pelt, Peter Labagh, Thomas Romeyn, Peter Steddiford, Jacob Sickels, James Striker, John Garritson, Benjamin Arrowsmith, Peter Quick, Cornelius Kip.

NAYS—Solomon Fræligh, Cornelius T. Demarest, Wilhelmus Eltinge, John Beattie, Cornelius C. Cuyler, Thomas De Witt, William M'Murray, Gilbert R. Livingston, Jacob Van Vechten, Moses Fræligh, Peter D. Fræligh, Ralph A. Westervelt, Matthew Bogert, Albert J. Zabriskie, Philip Peltz, Thomas J. Storm, William Crist, John Constable, Robert Forrest, John Vreeland.

The General Synod then resolved to *adopt* the report. On this resolution the yeas and nays, being called for by more than one third of the members present, were taken, and are as follows :

YEAS—Solomon Frælígh, Cornelius T. Demarest, Wilhelmus Eltinge, John Beattie, Cornelius C. Cuyler, Thomas De Witt, William M'Murray, Gilbert R. Livingston, Jacob Van Vechten, Moses Frælígh, Peter D. Frælígh, Ralph A. Westervelt, Matthew Bogert, Albert J. Zabriskie, Philip Peltz, Isaac Davis, Thomas J. Storm, William Crist, John Constable, Robert Forrest, John Vreeland.

NAYS—Gerardus A. Kuypers, Thomas G. Smith, Christian Bork, John Cornelison, Staats Van Santvoord, John S. Vredenbergh, James S. Cannon, Charles Hardenbergh, Jacob Schoonmaker, Peter I. Van Pelt, Peter Labagh, Thomas Romeyn, Peter Steddiford, Jacob Sickels, James Striker, John Garritson, Benjamin Arrowsmith, Peter Quick, Cornelius Kip.

The committee on Snynodical minutes again reported, which report was amended and adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on Synodical minutes, to whom was re-committed a communication made to Synod by their stated Clerk, beg leave to report, that upon investigating said communication, they find that the sum of $258 is now due to the stated Clerk. Your committee would recommend it to Synod to order their Questor to pay said debt from the missionary fund; and that the Congregations in each Classis, who have not paid for the printed copies received by them, be enjoined to make collections on the fourth Sabbath of August next, to refund the monies thus borrowed from the missionary fund, and forward the same immediately to the Questor of Synod.

Which is humbly submitted,

JOHN CORNELISON,
JACOB SCHOONMAKER, } *Committee.*
JAMES STRIKER,

ARTICLE VIII.

Grievances.

The committee on gravamina reported, and their report was accepted, and is as follows :

The committee on gravamina report, that nothing has been brought before them which claims the attention of General Synod.

CORNELIUS C. CUYLER, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the following members, who have absented themselves from the Synod without permission, be cited to appear before the next meeting of Synod to answer for their conduct, viz. Rev. Stephen Goetschius, Elders, Messrs. Albert I. Zabriskie, Michael Ryer, Elias Nexsen, and Cornelius Kip.

ARTICLE IX.

Church Government.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE X.

Doctrines and Morals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XI.

Customs and Usages.

Resolved, That it be enjoined upon all the Classes under the jurisdiction of this Synod, to make particular enquiry; at least once every year, whether the Ministers within their respective bounds, conform to the usage of the Reformed Dutch Church, and comply with an express stipulation in their calls, *by regularly explaining the Heidelbergh Catechism ;* and that if any be found habitually delinquent, such censure be passed upon them as may be thought sufficient to bring them to a strict conformity to the regulations of the Reformed Dutch Church upon this subject.

ARTICLE XII.

Schools and Christian Education.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIII.

Queen's College.

The following communication was received, viz.

Board of Trustees of Queen's College in New-Jersey.

New-Brunswick, May 29th, 1816.

The report of the committee to whom was referred the accounts of the Treasurer, to report what measures it would be advisable for the board of trustees to adopt, in the present state of the funds of the college, having been discussed and amended, was adopted by the board as follows, viz.

That your committee, from a view of the statement of the college funds as exhibited to them, are of opinion, that the income of the funds, with such sums as may probably be received for the tuition of students, are entirely insufficient to support the present establishment of professors and teachers in the college; they would therefore recommend, that the board of trustees offer to the General Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church in America, the use of the college lot and buildings thereon, for the accommodation of the theological college established in in this place under their patronage, with the exception of the wing now occupied by Professor Vethake, and the room in which the grammar school is at present kept, until it may be deemed expedient by the board of trustees, to revive the exercises of the college. And that, on the General Synod's accepting the offer of this board at their next meeting, the board should hereafter discontinue the exercises of the college, and, as far as they may be enabled, support the theological department, so long as Synod shall continue it in this place, or until this board shall revive the exercises in the college.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Milledoler, and the Rev.

W. Eltinge, and James S. Cannon, be a committee to present the resolutions of this board to the next General Synod, and to confer with them on the subject.

Extract from the minutes,

WM. P. DEARE, *Clerk.*

Resolved, That a special committee be appointed to confer with the above named committee of the board of trustees of Queen's college; and that the Rev. Charles Hardenbergh, Jacob Sickels and Cornelius C. Cuyler, be the said committee.

This committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee appointed on the communication from the trustees of Queen's college, submit to Synod the following report:

Your committee cannot but express their deep regret that the trustees of that institution find themselves under the painful necessity of declaring to this body, that in consequence of the exhausted state of the funds, they are no longer able to support the present establishment of professors and teachers in the college.

Finding no reason however to doubt the correctness of the statement of the funds, which the trustees have exhibited, and believing that it is not in the power of this Synod to afford them so much help as would enable them to continue the exercises of the institution, your committee recommend to Synod that they accept the offer of the board of trustees, and receive from them, for the accommodation of the theological college established at New-Brunswick, the use of the college lot and buildings, subject to the exception and limitation expressed in the offer.

CHARLES HARDENBERGH, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE XIV.

Professorate.

The committee on the professorate reported, and their report was amended and adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on the professorate report:

Subjects of great moment to the Reformed Dutch Church have been referred to your committee, which it has become their duty to bring before you, and which they submit to your most serious attention.

1. *The report of the Superintendents of the Theological School.*

From this report it appears, that five students have been received into the school during the last year, one of whom has been prevented from pursuing his studies by indisposition; that the whole number who have prosecuted their studies during the past year, is fourteen, five of whom have received professoral certificates, recommending them to Classis for examination and licensure, and nine still remain in the school; that an accession may be expected to their number; that Professor Livingston has continued his lectures on didactic theology; that Professor Schureman has entered upon the duties of his office; that the examination of the students has been satisfactory and gratifying; and that the course of instruction pursued in the seminary, met their entire and decided approbation.

The superintendents request advice, as to the time of admission into the seminary, and the time of examining the senior class for licensure. On this subject, the following resolution is recommended: Resolved, That the time for the examination of students for licensure, be on the last Tuesday in May; and that all future applications for admission into the seminary, be made to the professors.

2. *Dispensations.*

This subject is very important, and intimately connected with the vital interests of our theological institution.

There are many reasons, why we should be very cautious in granting them; and the time has come, when no more applications can consistently be received.

With respect to the present applications, your committee have been led to make a favorable report, and recommend the following resolutions: Resolved, that the superintendents and professors, be authorized to admit Albert Amerman and Matthias Bruen, jun. to an examination, and, if found qualified, grant them the proper certificates.

Resolved, That William W. Phillips, Samuel Kissam, and Dillon C. Beebe, students in the Associate Reformed seminary in New-York, and members of the Dutch Church, be admitted into the theological school, bringing proper credentials, and, if found qualified, be examined and receive professoral certificates after a year's study.

3. *Finances of the Theological School.*

The following statement will exhibit their state, and shew the necessity of their immediate augmentation. The funds are of the following kinds, and subject to the disposition of the General Synod, for the following purposes:

1. General fund of the theological school.		
Loaned at interest on bond and mortgage,	$10,400.00	
Amount in the hands of trustees of Queen's college,	2,772.57	
		$13,172.57
2. Donations and legacy of the late Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, as far as ascertained,		17,122.00
3. Legacy of the late Miss Rebecca Knox, of Philadelphia,		2,000.00
		$32,294.57

4. $921\frac{33}{100}$ acres of land in the state of New-York, given by Philip S. Van Rensselaer, Marinus Willet, and his wife, and Rensselaer Westerlo; but the value of which is not ascertained.

5. Monies subscribed and collected under the acts and by the agents of General Synod in 1815,	$5,061.27
Subscribed but not collected, about	9000.00
6. Collections in the churches in the hands of the special Treasurer,	805.54
Income of the funds,	1,228.50

There will be due to the professors for salary, in October next, $4,073.13½.

From these statements, it appears, that all the permanent funds of the institution, besides the lands which have been given, amount to 32.294\frac{57}{100}$; and the present income arising from them amounts to $1,228$\frac{50}{100}$; of which $728 is directly applicable to professors' salaries, and the sum of 500\frac{50}{100}$ disposable, according to the directions given by the late Elias Van Bunschooten; and there remains at the disposal of General Synod, in the hands of the special treasurer, $5,866$\frac{81}{100}$. This sum is to be disposed of, according to the acts under which it has been collected.

It is evident that the church at large, will be obliged to make a strong and unanimous effort to raise money to be applied immediately to meet the current expenses of the theological institution, and a similar effort to increase the permanent funds, that it may not hereafter be necessary to call upon the churches annually, to meet the ordinary and current expenses of the theological school.

Connected with these statements, the following resolutions are recommended:

1. *Resolved*, That in order to meet the expenses of the theological school, the committees appointed in 1815, to solicit subscriptions, be continued, and proceed immediately to fulfil the object of their appointment.

2. That the committee of the Classis of New-York, receive the thanks of General Synod for their prompt and persevering efforts, and be earnestly requested to continue their labors.

3. That the collections, ordered to be taken in the

churches, be attended to in all the churches, according to a former order of General Synod.

4. That it be recommended to the Ministers and Congregations, under the jurisdiction of this Synod, to attempt the formation of female, and other cent societies; and that such societies be permitted to designate the particular object to which their contributions shall be applied.

5. That the arrearages of the professors' salaries be immediately paid out of any monies under the control of the General Synod.

6. That since Professor Schureman will probably receive no farther emolument from the trustees of Queen's College after the next commencement, that his salary hereafter be $1200, and the use of that part of the college edifice which he now occupies.

The importance and necessity of making a great and general effort to increase the present means and permanent funds of the institution, are too manifest to need farther illustration. In order to meet the expenses of the next year, a considerable sum must be provided, and if they neither are nor can be, our theological school must die. The salaries which have been given to the professors, have been a very inadequate support, and we ought to make such efforts, as will very soon enable us to make their situations easy and comfortable. That the Reformed Dutch Church is capable of making such efforts, and can provide abundant means, ought not to be doubted. This institution is the fountain, from which the streams must issue, which shall gladden our churches by pouring into them the pure doctrines of the word of God, and establish in them purity of practice. Let the whole church be told of these things; let all her children be aroused to action; let one grand and united effort be made, and the most happy results may be expected. Let us be true to the gospel we profess, and the advantages which we enjoy; and our seminaries shall flourish, and our churches be abundantly watered and fertilized.

PETER LABAGH, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE XV.

Students in Theology.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVI.

Church Visitation.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVII.

Prevailing Sins.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Missions.

The committee on missions reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on missions beg leave to report the following.

Your committee have had access to no source of information on the subject of their appointment, but the minutes of the standing committee of missions, and the account current of the Treasurer of that committee. From what they find on these documents, your committee are decidedly of opinion, that the only missionary ground to which the attention of this Synod ought at present to be directed, is the province of Upper Canada. To that province missionaries have more than once been sent by you. These missionaries have organized churches which look up to you for help, and which, if not neglected, might soon become respectable, and be an important addition to the Reformed Dutch Church.

Your committee are happy to find, that the Rev. C. Bork, and the Rev. Isaac Labagh, have signified to the standing committee of missions, their willingness to undertake a mission to Canada, this season; and have been appointed by them. They hope that these brethren will be able, with the blessing of Heaven, to accomplish their

pious purpose, and will commence their missionary labors without delay. As the pulpits of these brethren, must be supplied while they are absent in the service of the church, your committee recommend to Synod that arrangements for that purpose be made before their final adjournment.

In a communication from the Rev. Mr. M'Dowell, addressed to the committee of missions, your committee observe, that that Reverend Brother requests said committee to send him one of the best commentaries on the bible. On this subject your committee take the liberty to recommend, that in consideration of the laborious, and we hope, faithful services of the Rev. Mr. M'Dowell in Upper Canada, for which no adequate compensation has been received by him, the committee of missions be directed by this body to purchase, with monies in the missionary fund, Scott's commentary on the bible, and to forward the same to Mr. M'Dowell as soon as possible, free of expense.

From the account current of the Treasurer of the committee of missions, it appears that there remains in the fund a balance in favor of Synod of 451\frac{69}{100}$.

Your committee will only add, that John N. Bleecker, a member of the standing committee of missions, has resigned his seat in consequence of bodily infirmity. They recommend that an appointment be made during the present session to fill the vacancy occasioned by his resignation.

SOLOMON FRÆLIGH, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, Jacob Van Vechten, Robert Bronk, and John De Witt, and the Elders, Messrs. Abraham Van Vechten, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Elbert Willett, and Leonard Gansevoort, Jun. be the standing committee of missions.

Rev. Moses Fræligh, and Dr. Gerardus A. Kuypers, and the Elder, Mr. James Striker, were appointed a committee to arrange supplies for the pulpits of the Rev.

Christian Bork and Isaac Labagh, while on their missionary tour.

This committee reported, and their report was accepted, and is as follows:

The committee to procure supplies for the pulpits of the Rev. Christian Bork and the Rev. Isaac Labagh, who, according to a report of the standing committee of missions, had consented to go on a mission to Upper Canada, report:

That they have had a conference with those gentlemen; that Mr. Bork declines going on said mission for the want of sufficient health; that Mr. Labagh is still willing to go, provided some other Clergyman be procured to accompany him. These circumstances prevented your committee from attempting to procure supplies for their pulpits.

MOSES FRÆLIGH, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That in case the Rev. Isaac Labagh and some other Minister of this church should be sent on a mission by the standing committee of misssions, they be authorized to supply his or their pulpits during their absence, by a requisition on the Ministers belonging to this church.

ARTICLE XIX.

Widows' Fund.

The President of the Widows' Fund Society informed the Synod, that in consequence of the absence and urgent occupations of one of the committee appointed by the society to draft certain rules and regulations, the society could not immediately proceed in their business.

Resolved, That this Synod earnestly request that the committee would prepare such rules and regulations, and that the subject be referred to the Widows' Fund Society.

ARTICLE XX.

Particularia.

Resolved, That it be the duty of each Classis to inform this Synod, at the next stated meeting, how many copies of the printed minutes of Synod they wish to receive annually for the use of their congregations, and that they be considered responsible to the Questor of Synod for the amount of said copies.

Resolved, That the resolution of General Synod, at a former session, respecting the raising of monies to defray the expenses of delegates to Synod, be rescinded; and that it be henceforth made the duty of the respective Classes to raise funds for paying the expenses of their own delegates.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to ascertain whether any, and if any, what sums have been collected from the sale of the copy right of the Psalm Book, and report to this body at their next session; and that the Rev. Dr. Gerardus A. Kuypers, and Selah S. Woodhull, and the Elder, Mr. James Striker, be the said committee.

Whereas Synod have been informed that our late Reverend Father and Friend, Elias Van Bunschooten, has been buried in an improper place, without any monument to mark the place of his interment; and whereas this Synod reveres his memory, *Resolved*, that if necessary, his remains be removed to some suitable place, and a monumental stone, with a suitable inscription, be erected.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. John H. Livingston, Peter Labagh, and Charles Hardenbergh, be a committee to carry the above resolution into effect.

Resolved, That the President give an order on the Questor for the payment of the expenses of printing the minutes of the present session, and that in case the monies in his hands are not sufficient, each Consistory be requested to pay 25 cents for each copy received from the stated Clerk.

ARTICLE XXI.

Questorate.

The following report was received from the special Treasurer, and committed to the Rev. Thomas Romeyn and Peter Steddiford, and the Elder, Mr. Isaac R. Houseman, as a special committee to audit the accounts of the special Treasurer.

Rev. Jacob Brodhead,
President of General Synod,

Dear Sir,

The enclosed accounts marked A and B, contain statements of the monies received and appropriated agreeably to the resolutions of General Synod, to which they respectively refer, and of the balances now in the hands of the special Treasurer.

It may be proper to remark, that it has been found difficult in some cases to determine whether the money received was intended for the account marked A, or for that marked B. Should it be found that any credits have been given to the wrong account, upon their being pointed out, they can readily be corrected.

It would prevent similar difficulties in future, were gentlemen, who forward monies to the Treasurer, to state whether they are the proceeds of *classical*, or of *congregational* collections.

I am, with much respect,
Rev. and Dear Sir,
Your ob't. serv't.
G. B. VROOM.

June 6th, 1816.

Account A.

Dr. *The General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, in account with G. B. Vroom, special Treasurer, for monies received and appropriated agreeably to the resolutions of June and October,* 1815.

1815.				
Novem.	2.	To cash paid discount on $300 Philadelphia notes, rec'd. on the 20th ult. from Dr. Brodhead: discount at 5½ per cent.		$16 50
		Cash paid by order of the committee of finance for $4300 of 7 per cent stock of the state of New-York, bearing interest from the 1st ultimo.		
		Principal	$4300 00	
		Accrued interest for one month,	25 8	
				$4325 8
1816.				
June	6.	Balance,		736 19
				$5077 77

Cr.

1815.				
October	20.	By cash received from Rev. Dr. Brodhead, (in Philadelphia bank notes,)		$300 00
	26.	Cash received from the committee for collecting subscriptions and donations within the Classis of New-York,	4038 27	
		Deduct counterfeit note,	5	
				4033 27
Novem.	8.	Cash received from the Rev. Mr. Van Pelt,		195
1816.				
January	2.	Cash received one quarter's interest on $4300 state stock,		75 25
Feb.	19.	Cash received from Rev. D. S. Bogart,		29 57
March	2.	Cash received from Rev. Mr. Cornelison, collected in the congregation of Bergen,		155
	13.	Cash received from Rev. Mr. Van Santvoord, collected in the congregation of Bellville,		18
April	1.	Cash received a quarter's interest on state stock,		75 25
June	4.	Cash received from Rev. John I. Christie, agent for taking up collections in the Classis of Paramus, state of New-York,		23
	6.	Cash received from Dr. Wilson, on behalf of the committee for collecting subscriptions, &c. in the Classis of New-York,		140 43
		Cash received from Rev. Dr. Brodhead, (in Philadelphia bank notes,)		33
				$5077 77
1816.				
June	6.	By balance due General Synod,		736 19

Errors excepted, New-York, June 6th, 1816.

G. B. VROOM.

Account B.

Dr. *The General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, in account with G. B. Vroom, special Treasurer, for monies received and payments made agreeably to orders passed prior to June,* 1815.

1815.				
October	18.	To cash paid Staats Van Deursen, Treasurer of Queen's College,		60 75
1816.				
June	6.	Do. do do.		50
		Balance,		805 54
				$916 29

Cr.

1815.				
October	18.	By amount received from Rev. Mr. Schureman, Questor of the Classis of New-Brunswick,		60 75
	19.	Do. received from Rev. T. G. Smith,		15 20
Novem.	10.	Do. received from Rev. Mr. Van Vechten,		30
	13.	Do. Rev. Mr. Cornelison,		17 25
Decem.	5.	Do. Rev. Mr. Lowe, for collections made in churches of Flatbush and Flatlands,		32
	7.	Do. Rev. D. S. Bogart, collected in church of Oyster Bay,	$7 16	
		"For theological fund,"	14	
				21 16
1816.				
April	19.	Do. received from the church in Garden-street,		89 33
	26.	Do. received from Rev. G. R. Livingston, collected in church of Coxsackie,		32
May	8.	Do. received from Rev. Mr. Schoonmaker, collected in church of Newtown,	22 29	
		Do. Jamaica,	12 3	
				34 32
	13.	Do. received from church in Garden-street,		78 90
	17.	Do. received from Rev. Mr. Gunn, collected in church of Bloomingdale,		22 35
	30.	Do. received from Rev. Mr. Sickels, collected in the church of Kinderhook,		45
June	1.	Do. received from Isaac L. Kip, Esq. late special Treasurer,		25 64
	4.	Do. received from the church of New-York,		196 34
		Do. Rev. Mr. De Witt, collected in 2d church of Albany,		55
		Do. Rev. Mr. Eltinge, Questor of the Classis of Paramus, for collections of 1815, in church of Tappan,	$2 95	
		Do. in church of Clarkestown,	4 36	
		Do. do. Paramus,	8 50	
				15 81

		Do. received of do. for collections in the church of Clarkestown, in 1806, 1809, and 1810,		15 12
	5.	Do. received from Rev. Thos. De Witt, collected in church of Hopewell,	$27 50	
		In church of New-Hackensack,	23 50	
				51
	6.	Do. received from Rev. Mr. Schureman, Questor of Classis of New-Brunswick,		50
		Do. received from Mr. Vermeule, collected in the church of Haerlem,		23 87
		Do. do. Rev. Mr. Demarest, collected in the church of the English Neighborhood,		5 25
				$916 29
1816. June	6.	By balance due General Synod,		$805 54

Errors excepted,

New-York, June 6th, 1816.

G. B. VROOM.

The following report was also received from Isaac L. Kip, Esq. late special Treasurer, which was referred to the same special committee.

Dr. *General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, in account current with Isaac L. Kip, late Special Treasurer.*

1815. Septem.	19.	To cash paid Staats Van Deursen, Treasurer of Queen's College,	$489 5
			$489 5
1816. June	1.	To cash in full paid G. B. Vroom, Esq. special Treasurer of General Synod, and my successor in office,	$25 64

Cr.

1815. June	5.	By balance per account rendered,	$477 5
	27.	Cash received from Rev. Mr. Gosman, collected from the church at Kingston,	12
			$489 5
Septem.	26.	By cash received from Rev. Dr. Bassett, collected in the church at Bushwick,	$13 64
October	4.	Cash from Rev. P. Van Pelt, collected at Staten-Island,	12
			$25 64

Errors excepted, June 7th, 1816,

ISAAC L. KIP.

The above special committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows :

The committee appointed to audit the accounts of the late and of the present special Treasurer, report—

That they have attended to the business entrusted to them, and that they find, from an examination of the books of the late and of the present special Treasurer, that the accounts presented to Synod by these gentlemen, are correct.

THOMAS ROMEYN, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That if the monies in the hands of the Treasurer be insufficient to discharge the arrearages due the professors, agreeably to a resolution of General Synod, he be authorized to transfer the stock itself to them, or to sell it and pay them from the proceeds.

Resolved, That the President give an order on the Questor to the Doorkeeper for $19\frac{38}{100}$

ARTICLE XXII.

Pastoral Letter.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Synodical Archives.

Rev. Dr. Livingston presented to Synod a copy of a book, written and published by him, entitled " A Dissertation on the marriage of a man with his sister-in-law."

Resolved, That the thanks of Synod be presented to the Rev. Dr. Livingston for his work, and that it be deposited among the archives of Synod.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Resumption and Close.

The minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the stated Clerk publish and distribute among the churches, one thousand copies of the minutes of this Synod duly authenticated.

ARTICLE XXV.

Adjournment.

Synod adjourned to meet in the city of Albany, on the first Wednesday of June, A. D. 1817, at 10, A. M.

JACOB BRODHEAD, PRESIDENT.

CORNs. C. CUYLER, ADSESSOR.

THOMAS DE WITT, }
J. VAN VECHTEN, } CLERKS *pro tem.*

S. S. WOODHULL, PERMANENT CLERK.

Official copy from the original minutes,

JOHN M. BRADFORD, STATED CLERK.

THE

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD,

OF THE

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH,

IN

NORTH AMERICA,

AT ALBANY,

JUNE, 1817.

Albany:
PRINTED BY WEBSTERS AND SKINNERS.
——:o:——
1817.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS,

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, convened in the City of Albany, on Wednesday, the 4th day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen. The session continued from the 4th day of June to the 12th day of June inclusive.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Opening of the Synod.

THE Synod was opened with prayer, by the Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, the President of the last General Synod. A sermon was preached by the Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler, the Adsessor of the last General Synod, from 1. Corinthians, xi. 27, 28, 29.

ARTICLE II.

Members present.

From the Particular Synod of New-York.

1. *From the Classis of New-York.*

Rev. Isaac Labagh, Stephen N. Rowan* and Alexander Gunn.

Elder, Mr. Isaac Heyer.

2. *From the Classis of Bergen.*

Rev. John Cornelison, James V. C. Romeyn, and Staats Van Santvoord.

Elder, Mr. Richard Terheune.

3. *From the Classis of New-Brunswick.*

Rev. Jesse Fonda, John L. Zabriskie, and Charles Hardenbergh.

Elder, Mr. Garret R. Garretson.

*Resigned his seat to the Rev. S. S. Woodhull, secundus, on the 7th day of the session.

4. *From the Classis of Paramus.*

Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, and Dr. Solomon Fræligh.*

5. *From the Classis of Long-Island.*

Rev. Dr. John Bassett, and Jacob Schoonmaker.†

Elder, Mr. Elias Hubbard.

6. *From the Classis of Philadelphia.*

Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, and Peter Labagh.

From the Particular Synod of Albany.

1. *From the Classis of Poughkeepsie.*

Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook, John Gosman, and Cornelius C. Cuyler.

Elder, Mr. Jeremiah Dubois.

2. *From the Classis of Albany.*

Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, John De Witt,‡ and Robert Bronk.

Elders, Messrs. John Van Schaick, Sanders Lansing, and Abraham Van Vechten, L. L. D.‖

3. *From the Classis of Ulster.*

Rev. John H. Carle.

Elder, Mr. Henry Snyder.

4. *From the Classis of Rensselaer.*

Rev. James Christie, Richard Sluyter and Nicholas I. Marselus.*

Elders, Messrs. Simon DeRidder, Henry Gaul, and Jonathan Ostrander.‖

From the Classis of Montgomery.

Rev. Abraham Van Horne, and Winslow Paige.

ARTICLE III.

Moderators.

Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook was chosen, President.

Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge was chosen Adsessor.

*Took his seat on the second day of the session.

†Obtained leave of absence from the 4th day of the session.

‡Rev. Harmanus Van Huysen, the primarius, took his seat on the 6th day of the session, and resigned it again to the Rev. Mr. De Witt, on the 8th day of the session.

‖Took his seat on the third day of the session.

Rev. Alexander Gunn and John Gosman were chosen Clerks, *pro tempore.*

ARTICLE IV.

Reading of Minutes.

The minutes of the last ordinary session of the General Synod were read.

ACTS OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Orders and Rules.

These were read.

ARTICLE II.

Standing Committees.

The following committees were appointed :

Committee on the Professorate—Rev. Drs. John M. Bradford. and Jacob Brodhead, Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, Peter Labagh and John Gosman; and the Elders, Messrs. John Van Schaick, and Jeremiah Dubois.

Committee on Synodical Minutes—Rev. Stephen N. Rowan. and Jacob Schoonmaker, and the Elder, Mr. Isaac Heyer.

Committee on Correspondence—Rev. James V. C. Romeyn, Abraham Van Horne, and Alexander Gunn ; and the Elders, Messrs. Sanders Lansing, and Henry Snyder.

Committee on Missions—Rev. John De Witt, Jacob Schoonmaker, Cornelius C. Cuyler, and Jesse Fonda ; and the Elder, Mr. Garret R. Garretson.

Committee on the State of Religion—Rev. John Gosman, Robert Bronk, John H. Carle, John Cornelison, and Dr. John Bassett ; and the Elder, Mr. Simon De Ridder.

Committee on Gravamina—Rev. James Chrystie, Staats Van Santvoord, Winslow Paige, and Richard Sluyter ; and the Elder, Mr. Elias Hubbard.

ARTICLE III.

Communications.

A copy, in the English language, of the acts and proceedings of the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States of North America, at New-Holland, Pennsylvania, September 1st, 1816, was received, read and referred to the committee on correspondence.

The following communications were received ; viz.

A copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the joint committee of the Presbyterian Church and the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church ; for the purpose of arranging a plan for the formation of a society for Foreign Missions ;

A copy of the minutes of the proceedings of the sub committee of that joint committee, and a committee of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church ;

And a certified extract from the minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, May 26th, 1817, containing a resolution of that body approving the constitution for a society for Foreign Missions, adopted by the several joint committees, and a resolution appointing a committee to carry the plan into immediate operation, in case similar committees should be appointed to unite with them, from the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, and the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church.

The above communications were read and referred to the committee on missions.

A certified copy was received and referred to the committee on correspondence, of the proceedings of the convention of the committees appointed by this Synod at their last session and by the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, for the purpose of promoting the good understanding between the two churches, and for combining their efforts to promote the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom.

A certified extract from the minutes of the Associate Reformed Synod in May, 1817, was received ; from which it appeared, that they have adopted the plan of a

society for Foreign Missions, and also the plan of correspondence proposed by the convention of the committees from that Synod and the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church. So much of this extract as relates to the plan of a society for Foreign Missions, was referred to the committee on missions; and so much of the said extract as relates to the plan of correspondence between the two churches, was referred to the committee on correspondence.

The following communication was received from the board of superintendents and referred to the committee on the professorate.

In obedience to the order of General Synod, the superintendents of the Theological College, report—

That they met pursuant to a resolution of the General Synod of 1816, at the theological-hall in New-Brunswick, on the last Tuesday in May ult. for the purpose of superintending the examination of the students in that seminary, and of transacting such other business as might be necessary for promoting the objects of the institution.

The board feel a high degree of pleasure, in that they are enabled to communicate for the information of Synod, the following summary account of the state of the school, viz.:

The professors furnished a list of the names and standing of the students composing the school, from November 1816 to June 1817, of which the following is a copy—

Samuel A. Van Vranken, Isaac N. Wyckoff, John A. Burtiss, Peter Van Zandt, jun. William W. Philips, Samuel Kissam, and John Ludlow,—of three years' standing.

Walter Monteith, David R. De Frees, Cornelius Bogardus, and Brogun Huff,—of two years' standing.

John Peltz, James Romeyn, Jacob Fonda, Henry Smalts, John Van Dervoort,—of one year's standing—in all 16.

The board having duly attended to the examination of the above students on didactic, polemic, and pastoral theology, church history and government, the senior class were farther examined on the Hebrew language, and their

views in desiring to enter into the work of the ministry; and after having exhibited specimens of their talents and manner of sermonizing, it was unanimously resolved, that they (the senior class) be recommended to the professors for certificates in order to be admitted to an examination before a Classis for licensure.

From the above statement it will appear, that there are seven who have finished their course of study; that nine remain in the school, four of whom have entered on the third, and five on the second year of their term.

On the 4th Feb. last, a special meeting of the board was held at New Brunswick, when the committee of appropriation reported, that they had loaned to one student $200, to another $100, and given to a third $30, for which he had receipted. At the same meeting $500 were put at the disposal of the committee, to which sum $100 were added in May last.

At the desire of the students, Professor Schureman has been requested to deliver a course of lectures on ecclesiastical history.

The board are unwilling to omit this opportunity to express to General Synod their entire satisfaction, not only arising from the attainments, the talents, and piety of the young gentlemen who have been examined, being youth of much promise, but also the assiduity, the zeal, the fidelity, and well-arranged system of instruction pursued by those worthy professors in whom the Synod have reposed their confidence. They hesitate not to say, that in their opinion that trust has not been misplaced. Events have hitherto justified their choice. We behold, from time to time issuing from this seminary, (the long desired object of our American Zion) young men qualified for their work. *They* "need not be ashamed." In this evil day, in which the enemy cometh in like a flood, we trust the Holy Spirit is, through the instrumentality of this school, in some measure, erecting a standard against him in the midst of our churches.

While the board notice the ability with which the department assigned to your junior professor is conducted, having entered on duties new and untried, guiding our

precious youth in paths until lately unfrequented by himself; they feel it to be a tribute of just respect to mention the diligence and the solicitude to preserve inviolate the purity of doctrine and practices, hitherto the distinguishing features of the Reformed Dutch Church, which mark the conduct of that venerable father, who long since was designated by our mother church for the important trust, who has been the first object of your choice, and who, amidst increasing years and declining health, has manifested, and still manifests a willingness to spend and be spent in the kingdom of the Redeemer, by serving his church.

The board have only farther to add, that they have reason to expect an accession to the school in the course of the present year; to what extent however, they cannot with precision say.

The scanty state of the funds, continues to be a matter of deep regret: on this subject the Synod are in possession of documents which furnish them with information.

The preceding statement commends the institution to the unremitted, fostering care of the General Synod, whilst it calls forth our unfeigned gratitude, and demands the erection of our *Ebenezers:* it claims our importunate prayers for its peace and prosperity, and presents an object to which the exertions of the whole of our church, as a united body, should be directed.

All which is respectfully submitted,

PH. MILLEDOLER, *President.*

A true copy,

STEPHEN N. ROWAN, *Sec'ry.*

ALBANY, JUNE 6, 1817.

The following report was received, viz.

The standing committee of missions lay their annual report before General Synod.

While their information respecting the wants of the destitute churches in Canada, and of those of their own land, has become more extensive and interesting, they regret to state that neither the increase of their means, nor the success of their exertions, have borne to it a suit-

able proportion. The General Synod was encouraged at the time of its last session, in the expectation that a mission would be undertaken and fulfilled into Canada, by two ministers of our church during the last year. All the necessary arrangements were made to accomplish an object, which considering the long interrupted communication with those remote and destitute sections of our church, must have proved eminently gratifying to them and to us. But on account of unexpected obstacles, the committee was compelled to abandon all hopes of the fulfillment of that mission. Although they have made exertions to comply with the wishes of General Synod, in obtaining suitable missionaries to go into Canada; yet with the exception of one person, whom the committee did not feel at liberty to employ, their exertions have till of late been unavailing. Recently however two gentlemen, the Rev. John F. Schermerhorn, and the Rev. Jacob Van Vechten, have offered their services on a missionary tour into Canada for the term of three months. The committee immediately embraced the opportunity; and they have taken measures to carry it into execution with all possible expedition. The committee have also furnished means to the Classis of New-Brunswick to send a missionary into the extreme northern parts of New-Jersey for a term of five weeks. That mission has been accomplished; and according to the statement of the Classis, it has been attended with happy results. Two congregations have thus been stimulated and induced to unite in a call to the candidate, Cornelius C. Eltinge, who was employed by the Classis as their missionary. That Classis has requested further aid of the committee for the prosecution of another mission in the same regions. When the committee contemplate the extent of the field of labour, and compare with it the narrowness of their resources, they are ready to say with the apostles, "what are these among so many!" But their trust is in Him, who rendered a few loaves sufficient to feed so vast a multitude. From various accounts received on the subject of the Canadian churches, your committee learn that their situation is truly deplorable. The only minister settled

among them, the Rev. Robert McDowell, writes that since the late war, no favourable appearances as to the conversion of sinners have been discovered, and that the members of those churches conduct themselves in general as it becometh the gospel of Christ. He states that there is a prospect of the settlement of the Rev. Robert Sheriff, a minister of the Associate Reformed Church, in the towns of Hallowel and Sophiasburgh, and that he is willing to become a member of our body; an event greatly to be desired, and which if it could be accomplished, would be of the first importance to our church in that part of Canada. Mr. McDowell again writes on the subject of Abner Wright, the person mentioned in the minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany, who desires to be licensed and ordained as a minister of the gospel. And it is hoped that the General Synod will feel the importance of strengthening the hands of that faithful minister by all consistent means. The Canadian churches, in case of the settlement of the Rev. Mr. Sheriff, and of the ordination of Mr. Wright, will be able to form themselves into a separate Classis; a circumstance which would give a new tone and aspect to their concerns.

Although the situation of those churches must be toall who have a heart to feel, a subject of regret; yet the committee cannot acquit their consciences, without again calling the attention of General Synod to the wants of churches nearer home,and more immediately the subject of its obligation. Notwithstanding the resolution of General Synod to limit their labours to the churches of Canada,it is hoped that that reverend body will hear and weigh with all suitable candour and interest,the urgent calls for help of so many of its churches in the very midst of us, whose walls are crumbling into ruins, and whose ordinances are fast falling into contempt. Says one communication, "in this county (Herkimer) there is but one "regular minister, the Rev. Mr. Spinner. In what an "awful state must be the towns in the county of Mont-"gomery?" says another communication. "In the Classis "of Montgomery there are ten or twelve vacancies, and "they have required the stated clerk of that body to re-

"quest the committee of missions to take into considera-
"tion the expediency of employing a missionary within
"their bounds, comprising the counties of Montgomery,
"Herkimer, and Schoharie. There are many important
"vacancies, that are willing to contribute in part towards
"the support of such a mission, which bids fair to be fol-
"lowed by the most happy consequences." The standing committee also state, upon their own knowledge, that while several churches have been entirely lost to the church, there are many in so declining a state, as to be but a step removed from lost, through the want of efficient and zealous attention. Missionaries of zeal and experience, employed to labour in the waste places of our Zion, would soon recal to our recollection, the words of the prophet, "the wilderness and the solitary place shall
"be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and
"blossom as the rose."

The great question is, where do our missionary labours promise the most success? In a foreign country, separated from us by hundreds of miles, the expense of sending whither swallows up no small portion of our means, and where it is most difficult to obtain men properly qualified to go? or, in places which are contiguous, and under our immediate inspection and charge, among a people allied to us by all the ties which can bind the citizens of one country together? Can we pass through the midst of our own churches which are as destitute as those of Canada, or indeed of any land, and travel hundreds of miles in search of objects requiring our Christian charity? What do we think of those heads of families, who are too busily engaged in the advancement of the family religion of their neighbours, to attend to that of their own? Who are zealous in instructing the children of strangers, while their own are suffered to remain in the most lamentable state of ignorance and vice? Equally inconsistent do your committee deem the conduct of that church, which engages in foreign missions, while multitudes who are born in her own bosom, are suffered to remain in a state indescribably more dangerous than that of heathenism.

But shall we abandon our Canada Churches? No. Let

the General Synod take speedy and efficient measures to assist them in forming a Classis of their own: only two ministers more will be sufficient; and these two we have the prospect of procuring. Let them encourage young men from the churches in Canada to come to our theological seminary for their education, who will return to their fathers, and become useful labourers with them in the vineyard. The difficulties of the churches in Canada will not in any degree be so great as those were with which the Dutch Church was compelled to contend on its first establishment in this country. And, while we are endeavouring to render these churches in a great degree independent of us, which through our zealous endeavours and the blessing of God upon us, may be speedily effected, let us not be so unnatural as to seal our ears against the cries of our own perishing brethren within only a few miles of our doors. Or, if we are determined to cherish the fondness for distant missions in preference to those which may be conducted with the greatest success under our immediate eye, let us rather turn our steps to the state of Pennsylvania, and behold that field already whitening for the reaper's sickle. There, if the committee have been correctly informed, we may promise ourselves great and permanent and certain success. Are we deaf to the fact, that, after great and expensive exertions, many years since, in establishing churches in our connection in Canada, and after great difficulties and expense in supporting them, many of their number have become almost extinct?

The committee further state, that they have not sent the Rev. Mr. McDowell a copy of Scott's commentary on the bible, having understood that Mr. McDowell had furnished himself with a copy when he was last down. And the committee request the direction of Synod whether they must send him the amount in other books, or forward it in cash. Should Messrs. Schermerhorn and Van Vechten proceed on their mission to Canada, it would be of great importance that they should be furnished with a sufficient supply of bibles and religious tracts; and the committee hope that this suggestion will not escape the

attention of General Synod. General Synod is also requested to appoint supplies for the pulpits of those gentlemen during their absence.

The committee also beg leave to suggest the propriety of taking measures to awaken the attention of our candidates to missionary labors, and to impress them with a suitable sense of the deplorable situation of our destitute settlements. By directing their exertions towards this object, more extensively and particularly than has as yet been done by our candidates, they would not only gain much important information and experience, but they would be more abundantly useful to that cause to which they profess to be devoted.

The treasurer has presented his account, from which it appears that he has $305,60 in hand; fifty dollars of which are due to the Classis of New-Brunswick for the mission of Mr. Eltinge.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Chairman.*

The above report was referred to the committee on missions.

The following communications were received, and referred to the committee on the professorate, viz.

1. A memorial from a number of the members of the Reformed Dutch Churches in the city of New-York, requesting the removal of the theological college to New-York.

2. A form of a subscription paper, circulated by these members; for the purpose of obtaining subscriptions in favor of the theological seminary in case of the removal of it to New-York.

3. A certified copy of a resolution of the Consistory of New-York, authorising their treasurer to receive and keep all monies obtained by cent societies and by an association for supporting the theological seminary, provided it be located in New-York.

4. A plan of measures to remove the theological seminary to the city of New-York.

6. A copy of the subscription list, containing the names of the subscribers, and the sums subscribed by

them, for the support of the theological seminary, in case of its removal to New-York.

ARTICLE IV.

Correspondence.

The committee of correspondence reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee of correspondence report, that no recent communication has been received from the Synod of North Holland; that a copy of the minutes of the Synod of the German Reformed Church in North America has been received. Your committee find in those minutes nothing demanding the particular attention of this body.

Your committee beg leave to express the gratification they feel in a continuance of a friendly intercourse with their German brethren, and ardently hope that the bonds of Christian brotherhood may in future be more and more strengthened.

It appears from the minutes of 1816, that delegates were appointed to attend a meeting of the German Synod; but it does not appear that they have attended to the duties of their appointment, no mention being made of their attendance.

Your committee recommend that a copy of the minutes of this session be transmitted to the German Synod; and that this Synod appoint delegates to attend the next meeting of that reverend body.

JAMES V. C. ROMEYN, Chairman.

Resolved, That the Rev. Isaac Labagh, be the delegate primarius, and the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, the delegate secundus, to attend the next meeting of the German Synod.

The committee on correspondence again reported, and their report is as follows:

The committee on correspondence beg leave to report, that three separate communications from the Associate Reformed Church have been committed to their consideration:

First, the original overture from the Associate Reform-

ed Synod to this body for combining the mutual efforts of the two churches for more effectually promoting the common cause of truth, and appointing commissioners to meet in convention with commissioners to be appointed by the Dutch Church:

Secondly, the result of the conference held by these commissioners:

Thirdly, its adoption by the Associate Church.

With regard to the first, it is unnecessary that the committee should pass an opinion or recommend any thing on this subject.

With respect to the second, your committee report, that the commissioners on the part of both churches met in the city of New-York, on the 14th day of June, 1816, viz:

On the part of the Reformed Dutch Church.

Rev. Dr. John H. Livingston,
Rev. Dr. Solomon Freeligh,
Rev. James S. Cannon, } *Ministers.*

Col. Henry Rutgers,
Mr. James Striker, } *Ruling Elders.*

On the part of the Associate Reformed Church.

Rev. Dr. John M. Mason,
Rev. Dr. Alexander Proudfit,
Rev. Ebenezer Dickey, } *Ministers.*

Mr. Joseph Nourse,
Mr. Ebenezer Clark, } *Ruling Elders.*

After discussing the several propositions made for promoting the important objects of the convention, the following is the result, viz.

1. The Reformed Dutch Church and the Associate Reformed Church, being bound by the strongest ties of fidelity to the truth, as it is in Jesus, summarily exhibited in their respective confessions of faith, do hereby most distinctly recognize the obligation to maintain that truth so exhibited, and do pledge themselves to each other as brethren in the Lord, not to allow any doctrine subversive thereof or contrary thereto, to be preached in any of their congregations, and to give each other every aid and

assistance in their power in this good and holy work.

2. The two churches agree to receive their respective ministers, candidates for the ministry, and private members, to free and full communion, as the Lord shall afford opportunity: allowing their ministers and candidates for the ministry to preach, when properly invited, in their congregations, settled or vacant; and admitting them as well as the private members of the two churches to sacramental fellowship; but in order to prevent imposition and irregularity, they further agree to inform each other of the manner in which ministers, probationers, and private members are accredited, and furnish and accept credentials and certificates which shall correspond with the forms to be respectively communicated.

3. The two churches or any part of them, shall not interfere, directly or indirectly, with their government or order respectively, but will strengthen each other's hands by discountenancing and refusing all applications, which may be made to them by ministers, probationers, or private members from either, unless regularly accredited by the other, according to the tenor of the preceding article.

4. Vacancies shall be at liberty to call a minister from either of the churches, according to the order established in that church from which he may be called; he conforming himself to the order of the church to which he may be called. And in case of a congregation being formed of people from both, it shall be at liberty to put itself under the care of either, at its option.

5. The General Synods of the two churches shall form and maintain a regular and constant correspondence with each other, by the mission of two ministers and two elders from each to the other, who shall be affectionately received, and always honored respectively as members, enjoying a right to deliberate and advise upon every question, but not to vote upon any.

The convention have also had under their consideration the subject of the theological education of the ministry of the two churches. But considering the magnitude of the question which it involves, they would merely present it to the view of the two churches as of an interest sufficient

to command their most serious regard, with a view to such measures, as after the most mature reflection, may be found best calculated to promote the common benefit.

Your committee find that the articles agreed on by the convention have been adopted by the Associate Church without any alteration or amendment; and your committee recommend the adoption thereof by this body. They beg leave however to state to the Synod one difficulty arising from the 5th article, which contravenes a resolution of the General Synod, relative to advisory members: the consideration of which is submitted to the superior wisdom of the Synod.

All which is repectfully submitted,

JAMES V. C. ROMEYN, Chairman.

Resolved, That this report be received AD REFERENDUM.

ARTICLE V.

Synodical Reports on the State of the Churches.

The committee on the state of religion reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on the state of religion, submit the following report:

That according to their appointment they have examined the minutes of the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany, and present the following statement as the result:—Your committee find a deficiency in the statistical tables, which prevents that minuteness of details which they esteem both desirable and necessary.

The present year has added its testimony that God has not forsaken our Zion. Although no extensive revivals of religion have occurred within their bounds during the year, yet God has visited his heritage with "*a refreshing from his presence.*"—Evidence has been given that his word shall not return void. The careless have been arrested in their career of folly—a spirit of enquiry excited—formal professors aroused from *spiritual* slumber, and believers built up in their most holy faith. The ordinances

of Christ are dispensed with regularity, and the order of God's house observed, according to the excellent standards of the church.—The Heidelbergh catechism is explained, and your committee rejoice that this excellent form of sound words, constitutes a part of the ministrations of the sanctuary. While this is continued, our ministry will retain in doctrine, uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, " sound speech that cannot be condemned; " and as far as means by the constitution of God are connected with ends, our people will be established in the *faith* of the gospel—capable of detecting errors, whether more gross or refined, and will reject all departures from the simplicity of the gospel of Christ, as that "vain jangling which ministers strife," rather than "godly edifying." With gratitude to Him who hath all hearts in his hand, they would record, that harmony prevails in our churches—Ministers and people appear to study the peace of Jerusalem—Associations for prayer have increased during the year. These institutions furnish the most decisive evidences of an increase of spiritual fervor in our people, and harbingers of blessing to our land. The bonds of Christian fellowship have been drawn more closely—the savour of religion preserved in the heart, and that often neglected, but important duty of bearing one another's burdens, thus fulfilling the law of Christ, revived.

The present time is distinguished by vigorous efforts to extend the kingdom of the Redeemer in the earth.—Christians appear to feel their responsibility as "*stewards of the manifold grace of God*," and no longer look only on their own things, but also on the things of others. A disposition to " devise liberal things," is spreading in our church. Societies for the support of the theological seminary, and for the establishment of missions, have been formed, and promise to afford considerable pecuniary aid.

From your school of the prophets, laborers have entered the vineyard—New congregations *formed*, and others *watered*. The committee rejoice, that our country has taken her place in the glorious work of diffusing the word of life among the nations of the earth.

It is auspicious for our land, that rank, talent and wealth, are consecrated to the blessed purpose of giving light to those who are sitting in darkness and the region of the shadow of death. The formation of the American Bible Society, will reflect imperishable honor on the enlightened benevolence which devised, and the liberality which furnishes resources for the accomplishment of its benign design. The period so long desired appears to approach, when God's people "*shall see eye to eye*"—when minor differences no longer separating the children of the same family, shall warrant the *belief*, that Zion, putting on her beautiful garments—bearing the triumphant banner, with this inscription—*One Lord—One Faith—One Baptism*—will become the joy of all the earth.

The *statistical tables* accompany this report.

JOHN GOSMAN, *Chairman.*

CLASSICAL REPORTS.

Particular Synod of New-York.

Classis of New-York.

	No. families.	Total Congregation.	In communion, per last report.	Received on confession.	On certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.	Adults baptized.	Infants baptized.	Pastors.
Church New-York	375	1875	787	26	14	7	1	19	808	4	80	Drs. G. A. Kuypers and P. Milledoler
Church G. Street	139	810	81	20	5	2			104			Rev J. M. Matthews
Brooklyn	145	730	113	10	5	5		1	122		27	Rev S. S. Woodhull
G. R. Church	188		213	4		1		3	213	3	35	Rev I. Labagh
Northwest Church	230		355	22	11	4	2	4	400	3	85	Rev C. Bork
Greenwich Church	90	540	137	16	9	8		6	148	4	22	Rev S. N. Rowan
Bloomingdale	36		28	8	2	1	5	2	30		25	Rev A. Gunn
Haerlem												
Tarry Town												Rev T. G. Smith
Cortlandt Town	50	220	49					4	45		8	Rev A. Hoffman
Fordham	40			3		2			24		13	No pastor
												Rev J. T. Jackson and I. H. Freyer without charge.

Classis of New-Brunswick.

New-Brunswick	260	1565	195	31	16	10	1	5	226	8	60	Rev Jesse Fonda
Rariton	195		165	4	5	7	1	5	159		53	J.S.Vredenbergh
Six-Mile Run	142	840	150	8	2			1	157		36	J. S. Cannon
Hillsborough	95	600	106	19	13	8	2	9	119	9	74	J. L. Zabriskie
Bedminster	168	1125	125	8	5	5	4	2	131	4	31	C. Hardenburgh
Middletown & Freehold	100	600		4		1		2	90		57	B. Dubois
Rockaway and Lebanon												
Wallpeek and Hardwyck												
Minisink	No report.											
Mahocamock												
Clove												
Smithfield												
Salt River												

Classis of Bergen.

Bergen	150	600	119	8		4	1	1	122	1	37	Rev. I. Cornelisen
English Neighborhood	141	817	66	2			3	5	63		26	C. T. Demarest
Hackensack	101	410	95	4				5	94		15	J. V. C. Romeyn
Schraelenburgh	151	556	153	32		1		8	176		28	
Ponds	184	938	108		4	4	1	3	105		39	J. Demarest
Pompton and Wynachie												J. T. Field
Pompton Plains												
Puckness	70	366							43			
Belleville and	96	527	37	11	3	2		3	46	1	41	S. Van Santvoord
Stonehouse Plains	114	649	43	7	1			1	50		20	
Fairfield												
Boontown												
Newfoundland												

Classis of Paramus—No report.

Classis of Philadelphia—No report.

Classis of Long-Island.

	No. families	Total Congregation.	In communion, per last report.	Received on confession.	On certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.	Adults baptized.	Infants baptized.	Pastors.
Staten Island	197	985							170		26	Rev P. I Van Pelt
New-Utrecht	90		2		3		2		85		25	J. Beattie
Gravesend	60	488	59	3				2	60	2	15	M. Schoonmaker
Flat Lands and	67	550	41	4	1				46		12	P. Lowe
Flatbush	129	1160	102	12	1			1	114	1	21	
Bushwyck	74	579	69	14				2	81		6	Dr. Bassett
Newtown and	83	500	82	4	2	3		2	83	1	9	J. Schoonmaker
Jamaica	107	600	71	7				3	75	1	35	Zach's. Kuypers
Success and	58								45		8	T. Kuypers
Oyster-Bay												D. Bogert

Particular Synod of Albany.

Classis of Albany.

Albany 1st church				14	7	1				1	33	Rev J. M. Bradford
2d church	No report.											John De Witt
Coxsackie	210	1450	99	12			1	1	109	2	38	G. R. Livingston
Boght	74	467		3					91		7	R. Bronk
Washington & Gibbonville	54	355							11		2	
Niskeuna and Amity	160	1280	170	1	1		1	1	170	2	49	Thomas Romeyn
Schenectady	360			47				9	246	3	68	J. Van Vechten
1st in 4th ward				11	9			1	96		20	No pastor
Bethlehem and Coeymans	No report.											No pastor
Jerusalem, Salem and Helderbergh	No report											Hars. Van Huysen

Classis of Rensselaer.

Saratoga	110	594	99	5	1	2	1		102	3	10	Rev Philip Duryea
Easton	56	324	34	1		6	6		35	1	11	
Schaghticoke	60	250	50	6	2				58		28	Stephen Ostrander
Tyashoke	50	220	50	3	1	1		1	52		9	
Union Village	140	914		1			1		92		12	Peter Van Buren
Schodack	127	759		6			1	4	101		30	
Wynantskill	207	1250	159	49	4	2	1	6	203	6	32	R. A. Westervelt
Union Village	59	258		8	3				42	2	1	James Christie
Greenbush Bloomingrove	103	617		13					73	1	18	N. I. Marselus
Kinderhook	No report											Jacob Sickles
Claverack and Hillsdale												Richard Sluyter
Argyle U. Ch.												No pastor

Classis of Ulster.

	No. families.	Total Congregation.	In communion, per last report.	Received on confession.	On certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.	Adults baptized.	Infants baptized.	Pastors.
New-Hurley	180	1092	89	3	1			2	91		47	Rev P. D. Freligh
Marbletown	250	1701	65	6					70		22	John W. Carle.
Hurley	36	272	51	1		1			53		4	
Ashokan	63	431	62			1					16	
Montgomery	214	1150	265	15	3	7		6	273	3	69	Moses Freligh
Rochester	234	1624		1				1	73		35	James Murphy
Wawarsink	153	1064		7	1			1	56			
Clove	98	584		1	1			1	20			
Saugerties	200	1200	119	20				1	138	1		Henry Ostrander
Catskill	100			9	4	1	3	1	90	2	11	Peter S. Wynkoop
Shawangunk &	No report.											A. D. Wilson
New-Prospect												
Flatbush and												P. A. Overbagh
Woodstock												
Paltz												No pastor.
Neversink												
Mamakating												
Bloomingdale												
Klyne Esopus												
Middletown												
Beaverdam												

Classis of Poughkeepsie.

	No. families.	Total Congregation.	In communion, per last report.	Received on confession.	On certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total in communion.	Adults baptized.	Infants baptized.	Pastors.
Poughkeepsie	300	1900	302	29	4	3	1	9	322	16	21	Rev C. C. Cuyler
Fishkill	100		101	1	1		1	2	100		6	C. D. Westbrook
Kingston	280	1750	306	29	1		3	2	231	1	33	John Gosman
Rhinebeck Flats	165	980	144	9	2	8	3	2	142	1	20	Wm. M'Murray
St. Johns	83		83	6		4		1	84	1	14	Andw. N. Kittle
Redhook												
Linlithgow	109		65	14	3				82	1	20	
New-Hackensack	105	700	78	11	1			1	89	1	23	Thos. De Witt
Hopewell	98	650	109	6	2	2		1	104	2	7	
Staatsburgh	64		18	1	1				20			No pastor
Pleasant Plains				6	5				11	2		No pastor
Greenbush and Tackhanack	270	1820	150	5					163		20	H. Vedder
Redhook	20		15						15			No pastor

Classis of Montgomery—No report.

Resolved, That it be enjoined on the ministers and consistories under the jurisdiction of this judicature to be strict and punctual in making out their yearly reports.

ARTICLE VI.

Synodical Appeals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE VII.

Synodical References.

The committee on synodical minutes reported, and their report was accepted, and is as follows;

The committee on synodical minutes report, that they find the following particulars on the minutes of the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany which claim the attention of this body.

On the minutes of the Particular Synod of New-York,

1. A resolution in these words, "That this Synod do "not feel at liberty to recommend to the judicatures un-"der their care, the recommendation of General Synod "with respect to the administration of the ordinance of "baptism; because they deem the practice recommend-"ed by General Synod contrary to the word of God, "and the standards and usages of the Reformed Dutch "Church."

2. A resolution that the delegates to General Synod be instructed to request that body to rescind their alteration of the resolution of 1804, respecting the administration of the ordinance of baptism, so that the above mentioned resolution may again take effect.

3. A resolution that the delegates to General Synod use their utmost endeavours to prevail on that reverend body to reconsider their plan with respect to missions, so as to restrict the labours of any one missionary to a less extent of country.

On the minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany,

4. A reference to this body of a statement of the Rev. Mr. M'Dowell, originally made to the Classis of Albany, that there is a man, pious, orthodox, well informed, and who is in the habit of exhorting, who desires, and the people among whom he labours, unite in his desires, to be licensed and ordained as a minister of the gospel.

5. The following question originated in the Classis of Albany, referred for advice to this body, viz: "What de-"gree of knowledge, and what are the indispensable, spe-"cific, and particular evidences of faith and piety, requi-"site according to the word of God, constitution, and ac-

"knowledged customs and usages of the Reformed Dutch "Church, in a parent or parents to entitle their children to "baptism and the want of which in the parent or parents, "makes it a duty to deny baptism to their children?"

6. A reference of the following question, originated in the Classis of Montgomery: Whether, agreeably to the principles of the constitution, and the practice of the Reformed Dutch Church, it is required that such persons, as have been once ordained and served as elders of the church, shall be re-ordained upon a future election to that office?

7. A request to General Synod to establish a theological school within the bounds of the Particular Synod of Albany, in such way and manner, as they in their wisdom may deem best calculated to promote the interests of the church of Christ generally, and especially of that part of it which is under the care and jurisdiction of the Particular Synod of Albany.

8. The reference of a resolution, originated in the Classis of Poughkeepsie, that the General Synod be requested to invite the Classes to amend the constitution so as to make it the duty of the students, when they shall have completed their course of study, to apply to the Classis within whose bounds they properly belong for examination.

All which is submitted,

STEPHEN N. ROWAN,
JACOB SCHOONMAKER, } *Committee.*
ISAAC HEYER.

The first section of the report of the committee on synodical minutes was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Charles Hardenbergh, John L. Zabriskie, and Nicholas J. Marselus, and the elders, Messrs John Van Schaick, Sanders Lansing, and Abraham Van Vechten.

The third section was referred to the committee on missions.

The fourth section was referred to the committee on the professorate.

The fifth section was referred to a special committee, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Solomon Frælígh, Isaac Labagh, and Dr. Jacob Broadhead, and the elders, Messrs. Isaac Heyer, and Richard Terheune.

In relation to the sixth section, it was resolved, as the opinion of this Synod. that the ordination of elders, at their first election, gives them authority, as ruling elders, until the period of rotation in office; and afterward a voice in the great consistory, and in the general service of the church, when duly appointed; and that upon re-election, the form is to be considered as a re-installation in the duties of a ruling elder in a particular church.

The seventh section was referred to the committee on the professorate.

The eight section was not taken under consideration, and the Synod adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas the 40th explanatory article of the constitution, leaves it optional with students of theology to apply for examination to any of the Classes; and the present practice of the students in applying exclusively to the Classis of New-Brunswick, is not satisfactory to some other Classes; and as this Synod believes the following practice will be calculated to increase the interest felt by the different Classes, and the congregations under their care, in the theological seminary, by affording frequent opportunities of witnessing the fruits of that seminary in students with whom they are personally acquainted, and in whose welfare they are more immediately interested; therefore,

Resolved, That all our students be again requested to attend to the recommendation of Synod, as recorded in their minutes of October and November, 1813.

The special committee to whom was referred the first section of the report of the committee on synodical minutes reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee appointed on the first article of the report on synodical minutes, report, that by the constitution of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, the highest ecclesiastical authority is vested in the General Synod.

Hence it follows, that the acts of this Synod cannot rightfully be supervised by any other ecclesiastical assembly which that constitution recognizes.

The resolution of the Particular Synod of New-York, entered on their minutes of the last October session, impugning the act of this Synod of June, 1816, relating to baptism, is therefore unwarrantable, and subversive of that subordination and good order, which are enjoined as well by the precepts of the gospel as by the most constitutional provisions—Therefore, your committee are of opinion that it behoves this Synod to assert and vindicate its paramount authority; and with that view, respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolution :—

Resolved, That the aforesaid resolution of the Particular Synod of New-York, assumes a power not conferred by the constitution of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, and is a direct invasion of the legitimate authority of this Synod, and therefore highly censurable.

CHARLES HARDENBERGH,
JOHN L. ZABRISKIE,
NICHOLAS I. MARSELUS,
SAUNDERS LANSING,
ABRAHAM VAN VECHTEN,
JOHN VAN SCHAICK,
} *Committee.*

The committee appointed on the fifth section of the report of the committee on synodical minutes, made a report, which was accepted, and is as follows :

The committee apointed on the fifth section of the report on synodical minutes, submit the following:

Resolved, That as the ministers of the Reformed Dutch Church are supposed to be fully competent to judge, according to the standards and rules of the church, of all the qualifications absolutely necessary in parents in order to entitle their children to baptism, therefore any explanation on the subject would be useless and nugatory.

SOLOMON FRÆLIGH, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE VIII.

Grievances.

The following report was received and accepted, viz: The committee on *Gravamina* report, that nothing has appeared before them requiring the attention of General Synod.

JAMES CHRYSTIE, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE IX.

Church Government.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE X.

Doctrines and Morals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XI.

Customs and Usages.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XII.

Schools and Christian Education.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIII.

Queen's College.

The following cummunication was received, and referred to the committee on the professorate, viz:

New-Brunswick, 2d June, 1817.

The treasurer of Queen's College herewith transmits for the information of General Synod, the accounts of the professoral fund. He has also received from the executors of the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, in part of the residuary legacy, bequeathed to the trustees of Qneen's College,

three thousand three hundred and thirty-three dollars, which has been put at interest on bond and mortgage.

He acknowledges further to have received from the late and present special treasurer of General Synod since November, 1813, the sum of three thousand one hundred and nine dollars and eighty-five cents, which money has been credited, partly to the professoral fund, and the residue to the account for assisting indigent students in theology, according to the instructions received from the superintendents of the theological school.

STAATS VAN DEUSEN,
Treasurer of Queen's College.

From the accounts of the professorate fund, it appeared that the sum of forty-five dollars and ninety-seven and an half cents is now remaining in the hands of the treasurer of Queen's College; and that the sum of one thousand and fifty dollars is now due for interest on that fund.

ARTICLE XIV.

Professorate.

The Rev. Dr. John Schureman, professor of pastoral theology and ecclesiastical history in the theological college, appeared on the floor of the Synod.

The committee on the professorate reported, and their report was adopted, with the exception of the fifth article relating to the memorial and other papers from New-York.

The report as amended is as follows:

The committee on the professorate respectfully report,

That, in viewing the numerous and important matters committed to their deliberation and opinion, they have felt a deep responsibility not only to the Synod and the church, but also to their own consciences and their God, and that, while calm and deliberate investigation assures them of the integrity and sincerity of their own hearts, in the following statements and recommendations, they still desire, with diffidence in their own wisdom, to submit them to the more enlightened wisdom of the General Synod.

The first subject of reference is a request that Mr. Abm. Wright, of the province of Upper Canada, may receive a dispensation to be licensed as a candidate, without the formality of passing through the regular course in your institution. From information, entitled to confidence, he appears to be a man of piety, heartily interested in the welfare of the church, and highly acceptable to the people among whom he teaches and exhorts. Granting his request will probably be the means of establishing a Classis in the Province of Upper Canada. The advantages of such an establishment can be easily appreciated by the Synod. As this case is remarkably singular, it seems to warrant a departure from the established rule. Your committee therefore propose for adoption the following, viz:

Resolved, That Mr. Abm. Wright be directed to apply to the Classis of Albany for examination; and that the Classis, if they find him qualified for usefulness in the church, be authorized to license him as a candidate for the ministry of the gospel.

The second subject of reference is an application of the Particular Synod of Albany for the establishment of a theological school within their bounds. Whether the request intends a removal of the existing school or a new establishment, is unknown to your committee. But as there are no funds provided, or any security offered for its support; as a division of the school would tend to distract the attention and paralize the efforts of the churches; and while it puts in jeopardy the present establishment, would be followed by many evil consequences tending to strife and division, your committee are unanimously of opinion that the petition ought not to be granted. The wishes of parents and students in this part of the church may be as powerful and proper as those of any other section. But general, strenuous, and combined exertion is necessary for the prosperous operation of our theological college; and no division or diversion of the resources of any part of the church, ought to be allowed. In this view of the subject, your committee propose the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That the request of the Particular Synod of

Albany to establish a theological school within their bounds, is altogether inexpedient, and therefore be not granted.

The third subject of reference is the report of the board of superintendents. From this report it appears, that during the past year, sixteen young gentlemen have enjoyed the privileges of the institution; that seven of them, having passed their examination before the board of superintendents, and received professoral certificates, have been examined and licensed by Classis as candidates for the ministry of the gospel. Those students who have needed it have received assistance, either by loan or gift, from the annual collections, one moiety of which is devoted to their support. These collections and the income of the fund of the spiritually charitable Van Bunschooten, which are pledged to the college at New-Brunswick, will meet all future calls, and encourage the pious young man, restricted in temporal means, to apply there; while the reputation and ability, the fidelity and success of your professors, will warrant the expectation, which the board of superintendents express, of a considerable accession to your "school of the prophets." Your committee, considering what has been accomplished with the means applied, do not hesitate to declare, that in proportion to the number of our churches, this school has been as useful and productive as any upon the continent.

Resolved, therefore, that this Synod entertain a grateful recollection of the faithful services of their professors, and feel bound to support them in the arduous work of supplying the church with pious and faithful pastors, workmen that need not be ashamed.

The fourth subject of reference is contained in the accounts of the special treasurer of Synod, and the account of the treasurer of the professoral fund, embracing the finances of the theological college. Though defective, it would appear from them and other sources of information, that the present income from permanent funds now possessed is $1930; that annual subscriptions to the amount of $300, exclusive of those in New-York, may be depended upon, and upon proper applications may be

much enlarged; that the average amount of annual collections in the churches is $1000: making in the aggregate $3230. The want of documents on which to calculate the funds and income of the college, and a difficulty in regard to interest paid and received, cause your committee to propose for adoption the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That it be the duty of the treasurer of the professoral fund, and the special treasurer of Synod, to transmit to General Synod, with their annual account current, an abstract in detail of the funds and property confided to them respectively, and the annual income arising from the same.

Resolved, That the treasurer of the professoral fund press the payment of all arrears of interest; and also, in case further sums of money are received by him from the executors of the late Rev. E. Van Bunschooten or other sources, the same be invested in seven per centum state stock, in preference to loaning it on bonds and mortgages.

Resolved, That the elders Messrs. John Van Schaick, Abraham Van Vechten, and Isaac Heyer, be a committee on the part of the General Synod to confer with a committee of the board of trustees, to devise the best mode of investing the Van Bunschooten fund in seven per cent New-York state stock.

While on this subject your committee would iterate the recommendation of Synod of 1816, in regard to voluntary cent societies; or others, which have in view this spiritual charity. Much may be done by the pious and zealous, which we doubt not are to be found in many parts of our churches. Much may be done by subscriptions and collections, and by calling the attention and censure of Synod upon those who are delinquent. They therefore propose the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That the annual subscriptions and collections for the support of our theological school, be continued, and the agents already appointed be urged to proceed:—That it be recommended to every minister and consistory to establish cent or other societies, whose collections

shall be transmitted to our special treasurer:—That the Particular Synods be required to report all delinquents in annual collections to the General Synod.

The salary of professor Schureman from the first of October, 1816, is due. Therefore, resolved. that it be paid as it becomes due, out of any monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Chairman.*

Whereas opinions are entertained that the theological seminary established by this Synod would be better supported and rendered more extensively useful by transferring the location thereof from New-Brunswick to the city of New-York: And whereas the members of the Dutch Church residing in the city of New-York, have made liberal proposals of support to the said seminary in case of its being transferred as aforesaid, but the said proposals are not bottomed on adequate security to insure the payment of the monies proposed to be raised, and doubts exist whether such transfer can be made, consistently with the compact which has been entered into by this Synod with the trustees of Queen's College, without the consent of said trustees: And whereas it cannot now be ascertained whether the said trustees are willing to give such consent: And whereas this Synod is deeply impressed with the importance of cherishing the aforesaid seminary, and placing it on the most stable footing by the adoption of measures which may be conducive to augment its funds and render them competent to all the objects connected with its prosperity:

Therefore, resolved, that the Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler, John Gosman and Isaac Labagh, and the Elders, Messrs. Isaac Heyer and John Van Schaick, be a committee on the part of this Synod to confer with a like committee which the General Synod request may be appointed on the part of the board of trustees of Queen's College, on the subject of the proposed removal; to ascertain from said board their opinion of the prospects of supporting the theological college at New-Brunswick; whether they will, in case of said removal, consent to devote the proceeds of the monies already put into their hands in trust by the General

Synod, and the proceeds of the monies donated by the late Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, so far as they can do it consistently with the terms of his original grant, to the support of the school in New-York, or in any other place, in which General Synod think it may be most prosperously supported.

Resolved, That when this Synod adjourn, they adjourn to meet in the village of Kingston, on the last Wednesday of October, 1817, for the purpose of receiving the report of their committee of conference.

Resolved, That it shall also be the duty of the said committee to ascertain what funds and accommodations for the support and use of said seminary can be obtained in the city of New-York, or elsewhere, and what security will be given therefor; and that the said committee report to the next adjourned meeting of the General Synod.

Resolved, That the agents appointed by the General Synod to collect monies for the theological school at New-Brunswick, be directed to transmit to the committee of conference appointed on the part of this Synod, on or before the 30th day of September, 1817, a statement of the monies collected or subscribed under their agency for that object; and that said committee be instructed to lay such statement before the committee of conference on the part of the board of trustees of Queen's College, to enable said board to determine what degree of support they may calculate the churches will give to the permanent establishment of the school at New-Brunswick; and whether it would be necessary for the real interests of the school to accede to the proposed removal.

Resolved, That it be the duty of the treasurer of the professoral fund, to cause a search to be made in the office of the comptroller of this state, whether any part of the lands given as a donation by P. S. Van Rensselaer and others, has been sold for taxes, and to redeem the same without delay if such shall appear to be the case: also that he pay all arrearages for taxes due.

ARTICLE XV.

Students in Theology.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVI.

Church Visitation.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVII.

Prevailing Sins.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Missions.

The committee on missions reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on missions beg leave to report—

That they have examined all the documents in their reach furnishing information on the subject of their appointment, and as the report of the standing committee of missions, the principal source of information, is already in possession of Synod, they judge nothing more to be required from them in the discharge of their duty, than to direct the attention of Synod to the following particulars, and to recommend the adoption of the several resolutions connected with them.

1. The appointment of the Rev. John F. Schermerhorn and Jacob Van Vechten, to missionary labors in Canada, for the term of three months. Your committee here recommend, that arrangements be made by Synod to supply the pulpits of these brethren, while engaged in their mission, and that they be requested to take with them for gratuitous distribution, such bibles and religious tracts as they may be able to obtain from societies instituted for those objects.

2. The happy result of a short mission in the county of Sussex, (New-Jersey) defrayed by an appropriation of $50 of the missionary fund; together with a request from the Classis of New-Brunswick, that an additional appropriation may be made in their favor, enabling them to support another short mission in the same county, from which they think the most pleasing effects may be confi-

dently expected. Your committee recommend the adoption of a resolution instructing the standing committee of missions to grant the request of the Classis of New-Brunswick.

3. A request of the Particular Synod of New-York, that the labors of missionaries may be restricted to a less extent of country than contemplated by a resolution of General Synod passed at their last session. Your committee therefore beg leave to remark, that in their opinion the missionary cause would be greatly promoted, as well as the request of the Particular Synod of New-York granted, by the location of missionaries in the destitute counties of the state of New-York.—Herkimer and Schoharie are particularly mentioned as presenting a field for the most active missionary labors. Your committee would suggest the propriety of directing the committee of missions to apply to some of our candidates to engage in such missions. And they are happy to add, as an inducement to establish such missions, that considerable pecuniary aid may be annually expected from associations formed for the very purpose contemplated in this article. Last year, the sum of eighty dollars was collected at Haerlem, an amount which they will probably be able to realize from year to year. A similar society has been organized in Poughkeepsie, and a pledge given that the sum of $100, for missionary purposes, may be annually expected from them. Your committee gratefully record these instances of Christian liberality, with a confident hope that other congregations will be excited to go and do likewise.

4. A donation made to the Rev. Mr. M'Dowell of Scott's family bible, which has not been furnished, because it was ascertained that he had already put himself in possession of a copy of that valuable work. Your committee recommend, that the amount of that donation be forwarded to Mr. M'Dowell, either in cash or in other books, as he shall be pleased to direct.

5. The state of the funds. This, as will be seen by the report of the standing committee of missions, is very low: but $225.60 will remain in fund, after the mission-

ary who labored for a short time in Sussex, shall have been paid. Your committee recommend the adoption of some resolution, to call up the attention of congregations to this important object, and secure attention to the annual collections for missionary purposes, by designating a day on which the collection shall be made in all our churches.

The committee conclude this report by recommending to Synod, the adoption of the following resolutions, viz.

Resolved, That the standing committee of missions be directed to comply with the request of the Classis of New-Brunswick for further missionary aid.

Resolved, That the missionary collection be taken up in all our churches, in case of a single charge, on the first Sabbath in August; and in the case of combined charges, on the first and following Sabbaths in August.

Resolved, That all monies collected for missionary purposes, be. with all convenient speed, forwarded to Mr. Elbert Willett, the treasurer of the standing committee of missions, in Albany.

Resolved, That it be and hereby is enjoined upon the several Classes respectively, to appoint at least once in every year, one of their ministers to administer the gospel ordinances in each of the vacant congregations within the respective bounds of such Classes, and to perform the preparatory services therein; and that it be and hereby is enjoined upon the ministers so appointed, to obey such appointment, unless prevented by unavoidable impediments, and to report the state of such congregations to their next Classis, whose duty it shall be to transmit, through the Particular Synods, copies of such reports to the next General Synod.

Resolved, That it be and hereby is earnestly recommended to the said congregations to make suitable contributions, according to their respective abilities, to remunerate the ministers who may from time to time visit them by appointment or direction as aforesaid, for their religious services.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN DE WITT, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, Jacob Van Vechten, Robert Bronk, and John De Witt, and the Elders, Messrs. Abraham Van Vechten, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Elbert Willett, and Leonard Gansevoort, jun. be the standing committee of missions.

Resolved, That the Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler, James Chrystie, and Abraham Van Horne, be a committee to make out a list of supplies for the pulpits of the Rev. Mr. Van Vechten and the Rev. Mr. Schermerhorn, while they shall be absent on their missionary tour. This committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

For the Rev. Mr. Schermerhorn's pulpit.

Rev. Mr. Jones,	3d	Sabbath	in July.
- - Livingston,	4th	-	-
- - Paige,	1st	-	August.
- - A. Van Horne,	2d	-	-
- - Toll,	3d	-	-
- - C. D. Schermerhorn,	4th	-	-
- - Wyckoff,	5th	-	-
- - J. Bronk,	1st	-	September.
- - John De Witt,	2d	-	-
- - Marselus,	3d	-	-
- - Westervelt,	4th	-	-
- - Van Beuren,	1st	-	October.
- Dr. Bradford,	2d	-	-

For the Rev. Mr. Van Vechten's pulpit.

Rev. Mr. Chrystie,	3d	Sabbath	in July.
- - Cuyler,	4th	-	-
- - Westbrook,	1st	-	August.
- - McMurray,	2d	-	-
- - Thomas De Witt,	3d	-	-
- - Duryee,	4th	-	-
- - Kittle,	5th	-	-
- - J. Ostrander,	1st	-	September.
- Dr. Milledoler,	2d	-	-
- Mr. Johnstone,	3d	-	-
- - Van Santvoord,	4th	-	-
- - Sluyter	1st	-	October.
- - Wynkoop,	2d	-	-

Resolved, That in case the Rev. Mr. Van Vechten should be unable to proceed on his mission, the standing committee of missions be authorised to transfer the supplies for his pulpit to the pulpit of any other minister whom they may engage in his stead.

Resolved, That the clerks of this Synod inform the Consistories of Schenectady and Middleburgh, of the appointment of their pastors as missionaries to Canada, and of the provision the General Synod has made for the supply of their pulpits, during their absence; and request their acquiescence in this measure.

Resolved, That the stated clerk be required to give notice to the ministers who are appointed to supply the pulpits of the missionaries, of their appointment.

The committee on missions again reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee on missions report, that it appears from the documents committed to them, that the committee appointed by General Synod in 1816, have in the fulfilment of the trust committed to them, conferred with committees from the Presbyterian and Associate Reformed Churches, on the subject of foreign missions. The conferences have resulted in the adoption of a constitution, which has been submitted to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church; that these bodies have respectively approved and adopted the plan, and recommended it to the active and zealous support of their ministers and people, and appointed committees to carry it into effect.

The following is the constitution which has been adopted.

CONSTITUTION, &c.

Article 1. This society shall be composed of the Presbyterian, Dutch Reformed and Associate Reformed Churches, and all others who may choose to join them; and shall be known by the name of "The United Foreign Missionary Society."

Article 2. The object of the society shall be, to spread the gospel among the Indians of North America, the inhabitants of Mexico and South America, and in other portions of the heathen and anti-christian world.

Article 3. The business of the society shall be conducted by a board, consisting of a president, six vice-presidents, a corresponding secretary, a recording secretary, a treasurer, and twelve managers, to be annually chosen by the society. They shall have power to enact their own bye-laws. Seven shall constitute a quorum.

Article 4. The board shall present their annual report to the highest judicatories of the three denominations for their information.

Article 5. Any person paying three dollars annually or thirty dollars at one time, shall be a member of the society.

Article 6. The annual meeting of the society shall be held in the city of New-York, on the

Article 7. Missionaries shall be elected from the three churches indiscriminately.

Article 8. This constitution may be altered by a vote of two thirds of the members present, at an annual meeting, with the consent of the highest judicatories of the three denominations.

Your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions on the subject:

Resolved, That General Synod approve the foregoing constitution for a society for foreign missions, and recommend to all their ministers and people to give the measure their active and zealous support.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, and the Elder, Mr. Stephen Van Rensselaer, be and they hereby are appointed to meet, on behalf of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church with committees from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church and the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, in the city of New-York, as soon as convenient, for the purpose of carrying the aforesaid plan into operation.

Resolved, That the permanent clerk of General Synod give the necessary information to all the committees.

JOHN DE WITT, Chairman.

ARTICLE XIX.

Widows' Fund.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XX.

Particularia.

Synod was informed that the Classis of

New-York wish	120 copies of the minutes.
Bergen	70
New-Brunswick	45
Paramus	48
Long-Island	30
Philadelphia	25
Poughkeepsie	70
Albany	75
Ulster	30
Rensselaer	62
Montgomery	35

On inquiry it appeared that the sum of $240 (as stated in the account of the special treasurer) has been received for permission to print the psalm and hymn book.

Resolved, That it be and hereby is enjoined on the Particular Synods to order their stated clerks to give notice to those persons who are appointed to attend the meetings of General Synod.

The Elder, Mr. Sanders Lansing, was added to the committee in relation to the remains of the late Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten.

This committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The committee appointed to make inquiry respecting the interment of the remains of the late Reverend Elias Van Bunschooten, respectfully report—that one of your committee has visited the place where he was interred, and found that the remains of that venerable and kind father in the church of our Redeemer, were not deposited in an improper and exposed situation, as had been represented to the Synod; but your committee would recommend, that, if permission can be obtained from the relatives of the deceased for the purpose, his corpse be removed from its present place of interment to the cemetery of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the city of New-Brunswick, in the state of New-Jersey, there to be deposited in a tomb to be built of stone, in a conspicuous place, and to

be covered with a marble slab; on which to be inscribed his name, age and profession, and a suitable and appropriate inscription commemorative of his piety and of his distinguished and disinterested liberality exhibited in his beneficent donation bestowed upon the churches under the jurisdiction of this Synod. Your committee are of opinion that the liberal donation of the Reverend Mr. Van Bunschooten to this Synod (whereby it will be enabled to contribute to the support of those, who, by the blessing of God, may be the happy instruments of diffusing the gospel of our Redeemer, not only within the bounds of this Synod but to distant lands where the glad tidings of the gospel have not been carried) demands from this body demonstrations of gratitude and respect to the memory of that venerable father and benefactor, and they believe that the measures recommended by them, if adopted, will demonstrate the gratitude of this Synod for the beneficent act, and its respectful attention to the remains of one who merited the praise of all the churches.

PETER LABAGH, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the president of this General Synod be and hereby is requested to apply for and in behalf of this Synod to the relatives of the late Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten for permission to remove his remains to the cemetery of the Reformed Dutch Church in the city of New-Brunswick in the state of New-Jersey, and that the permanent clerk of this Synod furnish the president with a copy of this resolution to be transmitted to such relatives.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. John H. Livingston, Peter Labagh, and Charles Hardenburgh, be a committee, who are hereby directed to apply to the minister, elders, and deacons of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in the city of New-Brunswick for permission to deposit in their cemetery, the remains of the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, and if permission shall be obtained, that they cause a tomb to be built and a marble tomb-stone prepared to cover the same, with a suitable and appropriate inscription thereon, and the remains of the deceased to be removed to and deposited in the said tomb, and that

they draw on the special treasurer for the amount of the expenses which shall be incurred, who is hereby authorized and required to pay the same.

The following report was received from the stated clerk :—

The stated clerk reports, that the bill for printing the minutes of Synod of 1816, herewith presented, amounts to	$103,60	
His salary	18,00	
		$121,60
That he has received from the Classis of Bergen, a check in payment for minutes of 1816, of	$25,25	
From churches in the Classis of Albany,	13,00	
		38,25
Which being deducted, leaves a balance due the clerk of		$83,35

Payment is requested.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Stated Clerk.*

The above report was accepted, and Synod resolved, that the amount due the stated clerk be paid by the questor out of any monies in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Resolved, That the stated clerk have six sets of all the printed minutes of General Synod which he can procure, bound; that he draw on the questor for the amount; and that three sets be kept in his hands, and three deposited with the permanent clerk, for the use of the General Synod.

Resolved, That the doorkeeper's account be paid, amounting to $13,25.

ARTICLE XXI.

Questorate.

The following statements of accounts were received from the special treasurer, and referred to the committee on the professorate.

Ordinary Account.

General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, in account with G. B. Vroom, Special Treasurer. (Ordinary account.)

1816.	DR.		
June 7.	To cash paid Staats Van Deursen, treasurer of Queen's College,		$30 00
20.	Cash paid do. in New-York money,	$555 94	
	in New-Jersey do.	44 6	
			600 00
Dec. 30.	Paid do. in New-York money,		414 34
1817.			
Feb. 17.	Do. do.		50 00
22.	Do. by order of the board of superintendents, for the use of indigent students,		360 00
June 2.	Balance to new account,		204 36
			$1658 70
	CR.		
1816.			
June 6.	By balance as per account rendered,		805 54
12.	Cash rec'd from Rev. Mr. Steddiford, questor of Classis of Philadelphia, (in New-Brunswick and Trenton notes,)		44 6
July 8.	Cash rec'd from Rev. James Murphy, collected in church of Rochester,	$12 00	
	Do. do. of Warwarsing,	10 00	
			$22 00
Aug. 27.	Rec'd from Rev. J. Gosman, collected in the church of Kingston, in Middle District money,	43 39	
	Deduct discount,	86	
			42 53
Nov. 8.	Rec'd from Isaac L. Kip, Esq. one of the agents of the consistory of the church of New-York, for granting licences to print the psalm book,		240 00
21.	Rec'd from Miss Frances G. Ingraham, secretary of the "theological school society," in Kingston, Ulster co.		20 00
Dec. 7.	Rec'd from Mr. C. Miller, in behalf of the 2d church of Albany,		45 00
	Rec'd from Mr. Gilbert, collected in church in Greenwich, in May,	$21 31	
	in November,	17 90	
			39 21
12.	Rec'd from Rev. Mr. Gosman, collected in church of Kingston,		46 00
16.	Rec'd from "the Bergen town female cent society," in New-Jersey, for educating indigent students for the gospel ministry, and further to assist the theological school at New-Brunswick,		100 00
1817.			
Jan. 10.	By cash received from Rev. Mr. Cornelison, collected in congregation of Bergen,		10 75
13.	Rec'd from a friend, by the hands of Mr. R. Blake,		10 00
16.	" Rev. Mr. Bogart, collected in church of Success,	14 16	
	Oyster Bay,	6 60	
	from individuals,	6 67	
			27 33

Feb. 4.	Rec'd from Rev. Robert Bronk,			27 50
17.	.. .. Rev. Dr. Schureman,			50 00
March.	.. .. Rev. Mr. Schoonmaker, collected in church			
	of Newtown,	18 32		
	Jamaica,	14 86		
				33 18
22.	.. .. Master Edward P. Rees, secretary of the "Columbia Society of Bergen, N. J." for indigent students,			25 00
April 15.	.. .. Rev. Mr. Jackson, collected in church of Fordham,			8 85
16.	.. .. Rev. Mr. Vermeule, collected in church of Haerlem,			27 71
29.	.. .. Rev. Mr. Labagh, collected in the German Reformed Church, New-York,			5 00
May 7.	.. .. Rev. Mr. Eltinge, collected in church of			
	Tappan,	3 63		
	Clarkstown,	3 62		
	Paramus,	7 00		
	Totowa,	7 00		
	Warwick,	7 79		
				29 04
				$1658 70
June 2.	By balance due General Synod,			$204 36

Errors excepted,

New-York, June 2d, 1817.

G. B. VROOM, Special Treasurer.

Special Account.

General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, in account with G. B. Vroom, Special Treasurer. (Special account.)

1816.	DR.	
June 14.	To cash paid Rev. Dr. Livingston, by special order of General Synod,	$700 00
July 19.	To do. do.	6 47
1817.		
June 2.	Balance,	243 97
1816.	CR.	
June 2.	By balance of account rendered,	$736 19
July 1.	Quarter's interest on $4300 of state stock,	75 25
Oct. 1.	Do. on $1600 do.	28 00
	Cash rec'd from Rev. C. T. Demarest, treasurer of the Classis of Bergen,	51 00
Dec. 12.	Cash of the Rev. John Gosman,	4 00
1817.		
Jan. 2.	Quarter's interest on $1400 of state stock,	24 50
10.	Cash rec'd from Rev. Mr. Cornelison, collected in the congregation of Preakness,	5 00
April 3.	Quarter's interest on state stock,	24 50
May 7.	Cash rec'd from Rev. Mr. Eltinge, collected in the congregation of Paramus,	2 00
		$950 44

1817. June 2.	By balance due General Synod,	$243 97

NOTE. Besides the above mentioned cash payments made to the Rev. Dr. Livingston, amounting to $706 47, there have been assigned to him twenty-five hundred dollars of state stock, at par, in pursuance of the order of General Synod of June, 1816 ; making the whole amount to him $3206 47,—which was in full of his salary to June, 1816.

Four hundred dollars of state stock in pursuance of the said order, have been transferred to the Rev. Dr. Schureman, in full of his salary to October last.

The amount of stock remaining on hand is therefore fourteen hundred dollars.

Errors excepted,

New-York, June 2d, 1817

G. B. VROOM, Special Treasurer.

ARTICLE XXII.

Pastoral Letter.

Resolved, That the Rev. James V. C. Romeyn, Jacob Schoonmaker, Dr. Jacob Broadhead, Cornelius C. Cuyler, and Peter Labagh, be a committee to draft a pastoral letter to the churches; and that said committee be instructed to warn the churches, against those errors which are most prevalent and dangerous, and turn their serious and prayerful attention to the general objects of the church, and especially to the theological school and the support of missions.

This committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH,

Convened in the city of Albany, June 1817,

To the Churches under their care: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

VERY DEAR BRETHREN,

The General Synod having, under the auspices of Divine Providence, assembled for transacting such bnsiness as might come before them relating to the general welfare of the churches under their care, feel constrained affectionately to address you. You have a claim that entitles you to an explicit and unreserved communication from your supreme judicature, of its views and transactions,

and of whatever concerns the state and welfare of that Zion which is dear to us all.

Imposture, inseparably connected with bad principle and bad design, practices concealment: like the pestilence it walketh in darkness. But truth needs no disguise. He that was the light of the world, did nothing in secret. He acted and spake openly. Influenced by the same principle, the Synod would withhold nothing that to them appears to demand your serious and practical regard. Under these circumstances, they hope they have on their part a claim to your confidence, your zealous and united support and co-operation.

Our printed minutes which are distributed among you, exhibit the result of our deliberations. To those the Synod would superadd this friendly address, intending it to reach all, and confidently hoping it will awaken the attention of all, to the important objects it suggests.

Brethren, we live in an eventful period. The movements of Providence relating to the extension of the church, and the diffusion of gospel light among the benighted nations of the earth, excite mingled emotions of wonder, gratitude, and joy, whilst they inspire a pleasing and encouraging hope, that soon will the day be hailed, when the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and his Christ.

Mark the combination of efforts for meliorating the sad condition of the human family and consummating this good work. Throughout the Christian world, in Europe and this western hemisphere, not only do the ministers of the sanctuary, countenanced and aided by thousands who love the Lord Jesus Christ, act in unprecedented concert, but kings have become nursing fathers, and queens nursing mothers. The potentates of the earth, becoming tributary to Jesus, recognize his superiority who is the Supreme Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Mark also the variety of means employed to effect the desired end. The already multiplied translations of the precious word of God, rendering it intelligible to the heathen nations—the formation of bible societies for

disseminating that word—the universally prevailing missionary spirit—the enterprise, the self-denial, the zeal and success of the heralds of the cross, added to the numerous, humane, and pious associations, present, on an extensive scale, a state of things that makes the wilderness and solitary places glad—that makes the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose.

Recalling your attention from abroad, the Synod would direct it for a moment to the Reformed Dutch Church to which you belong. It affords us cause of mutual congratulation that, whilst unhappily the peace of sister churches has in a great measure been interrupted by conflicting tenets which have obtained among them, we have the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace still prevalent. We cherish, we love, we preach, and we profess our stedfast adherence to that form of sound words, contained in the excellent standards of our church.

Whilst there is much to deplore—much of inexcusable ignorance of the truth—much of criminal indifference and neglect of the ordinances of religion both private and public—much of the prevalence of vice and immorality; yet it would ill become us not to acknowledge, that the good hand of our God is upon us. Yes, brethren, our ascended Redeemer has not left us comfortless.

The general aspect of our church is favorable, not only as it respects its extension, and an increasing attention to the means of grace, but in various parts thereof as it regards the power of godliness. In many of our congregations the blessed effects of that Spirit that quickeneth, are visible. May the whole of our Zion soon stand arrayed in her beautiful garments!

Whilst purity of doctrine is still our happy and honorable distinction—whilst we have hitherto not swerved from the good old way; yet let not him that buckleth on the harness boast as he that putteth it off. It is an evil day. Perilous times have come. Deceivers have gone forth to deceive. Socinianism, denying the Lord that bought his church with his own atoning blood, like smoke out of the bottomless pit, already darkens certain sections of our country. It impiously aims at obscuring the efful-

gence of him who is the sun of Righteousness, the brightness of his Father's glory, and the express image of his person—It extinguishes every ray of the sinner's hope—Nor is this all.—Besides those doctrines, so congenial with the pride of our depraved nature, which have long been known by the name of Arminianism, which, instead of humbling man as a guilty,impotent creature before his God, foster his pride and exalt him above measure; the Synod cannot forbear lifting up a warning voice against other errors, such as the heresy of Antinomianism, which absolves the sinner from all obligation to the law of God as a rule of life; and doctrines of a more specious and insidious cast. The advocates of these dangerous principles, level their weapons against those ramparts, those strong holds, which are called creeds and standards of the doctrines of grace, which are so important to the maintenance of unity in the faith, and the preservation of pure and undefiled religion. These they either reject or explain away, by perverting their plain, literal meaning.—Not satisfied with ancient received doctrines, they pretend to progressive improvement in the science of salvation as taught in our churches. They deny the total corruption of our nature—the doctrine of imputation of Adam's sin and Christ's righteousness–they teach an immediate divine efficiency in the production of sin; they plead for such an ability as is calculated to deceive the sinner,in contradiction to those scriptures which teach that we are without strength—dead in trespasses and sins—They plead for an atonement which is indefinite in its objects and limited only in its application—In a word, they unhinge the precious doctrines of the reformation, and open the flood-gates of error, which, like an overwhelming torrent, is in its tendency calculated to sweep away the very foundations of evangelical truth. And all this under the mask of a name which is not theirs.—They are not Calvinists. In the opposite doctrines, brethren, you have been instructed;—you love them, you cherish them, you experience the consolations derived from them,and appreciate their value. Be exhorted to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints. With Paul, that champion of the

cross, the honored instrument set for the defence of the gospel, yield not to the adversary, no, not for an hour.—Be this your motto: We can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. Hold fast your profession without wavering. These precious doctrines Jesus and the apostles taught, and sealed with their blood—For these, hosts of martyrs bled.—These only can console you in life, illumine the dark valley of death, and secure an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ—when you shall shout grace, grace, unto it.

Another object to which the Synod earnestly call the attention of their churches is, the theological college. This is an object of great consequence. The schools of the prophets under the old, and those of the earlier as well as later ages of the new testament: the establishment of such institutions in Europe, and especially in Holland, our parent church, testify their vast importance. We remember the ardent prayers, and fruitless efforts, of those venerable fathers of our own church, in this country, whose memory we cherish: prayers and efforts directed to this object. Like David, it was in their hearts to do this thing, but its accomplishment, thus far, has been reserved for us. We remember how long we have labored in vain, hoping against hope. The end has been obtained. We have a theological seminary. It is in successful operation. We feel its happy effects—It promises an ample supply of a well qualified ministry, to supply the wants of our numerous vacancies. Much has been done, but, brethren, much remains yet to be done. This school demands your countenance and aid. If you feel an interest in the prosperity of your church; if you desire her peace; if you love the truth as it is in Jesus, and wish it to be perpetuated, if you would guard against innovations in the doctrines and practices of your church, withhold not your fostering attachment and support—We ask for your prayers—We address ourselves to your liberality—let it not languish nor die—We want more means, and you amply possess them—We ask for a little of you silver and

gold, assured that the commutation, through the divine blessing, is vastly in your favor—imperishable, unfading treasures. A little of your abundance will secure a permanency to this fountain of instruction, which already pours its fertilizing streams into our vineyard.

In addition to the above, the Synod invite you to become, with new zeal, workers together with them in the missionary cause.—We refer in this place particularly to missions limited to our own country, and intended for the extension of the Reformed Dutch Church. The exertions of sister denominations should excite in our breasts a holy jealousy and emulation. Although our Zion hath of late lengthened her cords, we are still circumscribed within narrower limits than any other regular denomination in our country.—Excepting a few congregations in Canada and Pennsylvania, we are confined within the states of New-York and New-Jersey. These states present a wide field for missionary labors. The harvest is great, the laborers are few, and our means scanty. Members of our churches emigrate to the frontier settlements, and carry with them their first attachments.—They are scattered and need gathering.—They are exposed to become a prey, and need our vigilant attention. They are destitute, and need supplies. Besides, in the interior parts, through our want of means, and we blush to say, want of zeal, churches are languishing, respectable settlements are unorganized, presenting a melancholy spectacle, which loudly calls on us to strengthen the things that remain, that are ready to die.

Without your aid, brethren, our wishes must be vain; our efforts must be abortive,—we cannot apply the remedy—We look to you for those pecuniary means which are indispensable for furnishing them with that word of life which is your heritage, with those ordinances which seal to you the promises of the everlasting covenant. In a word, they cry aloud, in language not to be misunderstood, come over and help us.

Are ye rulers over the house of God? like Aaron and Hur uphold the hands of your ministers in this holy warfare. Are ye members? honor the great head of the

Church by your devotion to his cause. Do you fill stations which give you influence? so exert and direct that influence as will add all your weight in the scale of this best of causes. Are ye rich? honor God the Saviour with your substance, and remember his grace, who being rich for your sakes became poor. Are ye poor? forget not how acceptable was the widow's mite. Are ye parents? liberality in this cause is an invaluable bequest to your posterity. Are ye young? bring these your first offerings. In a word, to do good and communicate forget not. Let the usual collections be generously attended to. Let societies be established among you for aiding this Synod with sufficient funds to carry into effect the measures contemplated for advancing the best interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. We wish not to burthen you. Even trifling contributions, like small streams, by their confluence swell into a flood, and in the aggregate will enable this Synod, on which rests the care of all the churches, to do what is necessary to be done for planting and watering the good seed, whilst we look by the prayer of faith to that God, who by his spirit alone giveth the increase. To corroborate the above remarks we would only add, that in various parts of our church the beneficial results of small contributions, in the form of cent and other societies, are proved.--We point to New-York—$530 have been realized in our church in that city by these means in the short space of three months. We make honorable mention of the church at Bergen—In one year a juvenile male, and a female cent society have collected more than $200---We name Poughkeepsie; the proceeds of one year are $100---Haerlem and Kingston are other instances. These are powerful calls to rouse the attention of all to the establishment of similar institutions, and recommend a universally combined effort to go and do likewise. Finally, brethren, live in peace---and may the God of peace be with you.

Resolved, That the Rev. John De Witt, Cornelius C. Cuyler and Robert Bronk be a special committee to publish one thousand copies of this pastoral letter.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Synodical Archives.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Resumption and Close.

The minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the stated clerk publish one thousand copies of the minutes of this Synod duly authenticated; that he distribute among the Classes the number of copies directed by them, and that he be authorized to dispose of the surplus copies to any individuals desirous of purchaing them, for twenty-five cents each.

ARTICLE XXV.

Adjournment.

Synod adjourned to meet in the village of Kingston, on the last Wednesday of October, 1817, at 10, A. M.

CORNELIUS D. WESTBROOK, *President.*
WILHELMUS ELTINGE, *Adsessor.*
JOHN GOSMAN, } *Clerks pro tem.*
ALXR. GUNN, }
S. S. WOODHULL, *Permanent Clerk.*

Official copy from the original minutes.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Stated Clerk.*

THE

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH,

IN

NORTH AMERICA.

AT

KINGSTON, OCTOBER, 1817.

ALBANY:
PRINTED BY WEBSTERS AND SKINNERS.
1817.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, convened in the village of Kingston, on Wednesday the 29th day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventeen. The Session continued on the 29th and 30th days of October.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Opening of the Synod.

The Synod was opened with prayer, by the Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook, the President of the General Synod.

ARTICLE II.

Members Present.

From the Particular Synod of New York.

1. *From the Classis of New York.*

Rev. Selah S. Woodhull and Stephen N. Rowan.
Elders, Messrs. Isaac Heyer and Abraham Labagh.

2. *From the Classis of Bergen.*

Rev. Jacob T. Field.

3. *From the Classis of New Brunswick.*

Rev. Jesse Fonda and Charles Hardenbergh.
Elder, Mr. Aaron Van Doren.

4. *From the Classis of Paramus.*

Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge.
Elder, Mr. Jacob Demarest.

5. *From the Classis of Long Island.*

Rev. Dr. John Bassett.

From the Particular Synod of Albany.

1. *From the Classis of Poughkeepsie.*

Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook, John Gosman and Andrew N. Kittle.

Elders, Messrs. Jeremiah Dubois, Thomas Lawrence and Gerrit Van Wagenen.*

2. *From the Classis of Albany.*

Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford and John DeWitt.

3. *From the Classis of Ulster.*

Rev. John H. Carle, Henry Ostrander and Peter A. Overbagh.

Elders, Messrs. Cornelius Myer, Henry Snyder and Jacob Hendricks.

4. *From the Classis of Rensselaer.*

Rev. James Chrystie and Richard Sluyter.

5. *From the Classis of Montgomery.*

Rev. Abraham Van Horne.

Elder, Mr. Thomas Sammons.

ARTICLE III.

Moderators.

The Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook, President.

Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, Adsessor.

Rev. John Gosman and James Chrystie, Clerks, *pro tempore.*

ARTICLE IV.

Reading of Minutes.

The reading of minutes was dispensed with.

* Appeared on the last day of the Session.

ACTS OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Orders and Rules.

These were read.

ARTICLE II.

Standing Committees.

The vacancies in the standing committees, appointed in June last, were filled, and the following are the standing committees.

Committee on the Professorate—Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, Wilhelmus Eltinge, John Gosman, Selah S. Woodhull, and Henry Ostrander; and the Elders, Messrs. Jeremiah Dubois and Thomas Lawrence.

Committee on Synodical Minutes—Rev. Stephen N. Rowan and Peter A. Overbagh; and the Elder Mr. Isaac Heyer.

Committee on Correspondence—Rev. Abraham Van Horne, James Chrystie and Andrew N. Kittle; and the Elders, Messrs. Isaac Heyer and Henry Snyder.

Committee on Missions—Rev. John DeWitt, Jesse Fonda, Wilhelmus Eltinge and Stephen N. Rowan; and the Elder, Mr. Thomas Sammons.

Committee on the State of Religion—Rev. John Gosman, John H. Carle, Dr. John Bassett, Abraham Van Horne and Charles Hardenbergh; and the Elder, Mr. Abraham Labagh.

Committee on Gravamina—Rev. James Chrystie, Jacob T. Field, Richard Sluyter and Dr. John Bassett; and the Elder, Mr. Cornelius Myer.

Resolved—That this Synod appoint another standing committee to be called the *Committee of Overtures;* and the following persons were appointed to compose that committee, viz:—Rev. Selah S. Woodhull, Wilhemus Eltinge and Jesse Fonda; and the Elder Mr. Thomas Lawrence.

ARTICLE III.

Communications.

The special committee appointed in June last to confer with a committee of the Board of trustees of Queen's College, and for other purposes, reported, and their report was accepted and is as follows:

The committee appointed at the last ordinary session of the General Synod to confer with a committee of the board of trustees of Queens College, and also to ascertain what funds and accommodations for the support and use of the Theological Seminary can be obtained in the city of New York or elsewhere, and what security will be given therefor, report—

That they have endeavored to fulfil the trust committed to them, and that the following is the result:

1. With respect to the city of New York, they have been informed by the New York Association, that $2,625 for five years have been subscribed by forty-one persons; that two donations of $50 each have been given, and that there is a legacy of $250 given by Mrs. M'Crea. The use of two lecture rooms might also be procured without expense. These subscriptions and donations, and this Legacy, are available to the support of the Theological School, only if it be located in the city of New York. Money to the amount of $600 has also been raised by a cent society. Whether any of the above amount, and if any, how much might be procured in the city of New York, if the school were to remain where it is at present located, your committee is not informed. It is not however to be expected that if the General Synod, under all the circumstances of the case, should deem it neccesary to continue the school at New Brunswick, the people of New York would wholly or mainly withold their support.

2. With respect to New Brunswick, the trustees of Queen's College express their decided disapprobation of the removal of the Theological School, and give it as their

opinion that all the funds of every kind would by such removal be placed beyond the control of General Synod, and be unavailable for the support of the school. How far this opinion may be correct is not for your committee to inquire. They deem it however pertinent to insert a statement of the funds as furnished by the board of trustees.

(1.) *Professoral Fund.*

At interest on bonds and mortgages,	$10,400	
In the hands of the trustees of Queen's College,	2,772.57	
		$13,172.57.

Together with $921\frac{33}{100}$ acres of land in the state of New York.

(2) *Other Funds.*

Van Bunschooten Fund.		
At interest on bond and mortgage,	$10,750	
Payable in future instalments,	6,840	
		$17,590
Legacy of Rebecca Knox,		2,000
In the hands of the special treasurer of General Synod,		1,643.97
Total of the funds of every kind, independent of the interest which General Synod has in the college edifice,		$34,406.54.

Of these sums, the Professoral fund and the amount in the hands of the special treasurer, may without doubt be appropriated to the support of the professors. The Van Bunschooten fund, and the legacy of Rebecca Knox, can be used only in conformity to the directions of the donor and testator.

Your committee regret to state that few reports have been made to them from other quarters than those already mentioned. The following are all that have been received:

A report of the establishment of a cent society in the congregation of Greenwich, N. Y., under the pastoral care of the Rev. S. N. Rowan. It was formed last April; has already collected $153.75; paid to the special treasurer $111; and promises at least $100 per annum.

Cent societies established within the bounds of the Classis of Paramus promise $50 yearly.

From the Classis of Philadelphia may be expected $500 annually, by subscriptions, collections, and cent societies.

And the Rev. Wilhemus Eltinge offers $250 in Bergen turnpike stock, upon the following conditions—that the proceeds of the said principal be appropriated to the support of the professors—that the said stock shall be assigned to the board of trustees of Queen's College in trust—that if the Theological School shall be removed from New Brunswick, the principal shall revert to the donor.

The above statements are founded on the documents which accompany this report.

Your committee fondly flatter themselves, that the location of the Theological School will now be finally settled, and a course of measures be adopted, and perseveringly pursued, which shall eventuate in its permanency and extensive usefulness. They dare not for a moment believe that the ministers and congregations of the Reformed Dutch Church, will disgrace themselves and destroy the Theological School, by refusing to acquiesce in the decision of General Synod, and to withhold from this object their cordial and active support.

CORNELIUS C. CUYLER, *Chairman.*

The above report with its accompaning documents was referred to the committee on the Professorate.

A memorial from a number of the members of the Reformed Dutch Churches in the city of New York, was received and read, and referred to the committee on the Professorate

A letter from the Rev. Isaac Labagh, who was appointed in June last to attend the last meeting of the Synod of the German Reformed Church, was received and read; and the consideration of it was postponed to the next General Synod.

The following communication was received from the special treasurer:

To the Reverend the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church.

In rendering his last accounts to General Synod, the special treasurer had the pleasure of making known to them, that three donations had been received from societies voluntarily formed viz:—Twenty dollars from the Theological School society of Kingston, Ulster county; one-hundred dollars from the Bergen town female cent society in New Jersey for educating indigent students for the gospel ministry, and further to assist the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick; and twenty-five dollars from the Columbia academy society of Bergen, N. J.

These sources of revenue for promoting the interests of the Theological Seminary may, in a certain sense, be called extraordinary; and do not appear to have been in the view of Synod at the time the direction was given, that the monies in the hands of the special treasurer should from time to time be subject to the drafts of the treasurer of Queen's College.

This fact was noticed by the special treasurer on the receipt of the two first donations, before alluded to;—and he felt some difficulty in determining what would be the most correct line of conduct to pursue in relation to the disbursement of this money. He concluded, however, on mature reflection, that he would be justifiable in paying it to the order of the treasurer of Queen's College, provided such order should be authorised by the board of superintendents of the Theological Seminary. To this conclusion he was the more inclined, as the Bergen female cent

society had expressed their desire that the donations made by them should be applied by the superintendents.

That board, at their meeting in February 1817, authorised a draft on the special treasurer, and the sum of three hundred and sixty dollars was accordingly paid on the 22d of that month, as will appear by a reference to the account rendered in June. This sum of three hundred and sixty dollars was composed in part, of the $120 received from the two societies aforesaid, and in part of the amount ($240) received from Mr. Kip, one of the agents of the Consistory of the church of New York, for granting licences to print the psalm book. This latter sum, it was known, had been, by a resolution of General Synod, declared applicable, exclusively, to the use of indigent students.

These circumstances have been thus minutely detailed, that General Synod may, should they deem it expedient, take into consideration the propriety of passing a resolution by which the manner of withdrawing from the special treasurer the funds arising from donations, may be distinctly defined.

Should the General Synod feel disposed to put under the immediate control of the board of superintendents the monies arising from these new sources, it might be well to direct that they should be held by the special treasurer, subject to their orders, and be applied by them agreeably to the directions of the liberal contributors and donors. If this step should be taken, the special treasurer would be entirely relieved from his present embarrassment on this subject; and, probably, in those cases in which the contributions are made for the benefit of indigent students exclusively, the wishes of the benevolent contributors might be more promptly realized.

G. B. VROOM, *Sp. Treasurer.*

New York, Oct. 28, 1817.

The above communication was referred to the committee on the Professorate.

The committee of overtures reported, and their report was accepted and is as follows:

The committee of overtures report that nothing has come before them deserving the attention of Synod.

SELAH S. WOODHULL, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE IV.

Correspondence.

The committee on correspondence reported, that no business had been brought before them.

ARTICLE V.

Synodical Reports on the State of the Churches.

The committee on the state of religion reported, that they had found nothing requiring the present attention of Synod.

ARTICLE VI.

Synodical Appeals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE VII.

Synodical References.

The committee on synodical minutes reported, and their report was adopted and is as follows, viz:

The committee on the synodical minutes report,

That there is nothing which requires the attention of this body, excepting the unfinished business of June, 1817, in relation to a friendly correspondence with the Associate Reformed Church.

Your committee are of opinion, that respect to ourselves and our brethren of the Reformed Associate Church requires an early decision on that subject; and therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:—

Resolved, That this Synod adopt the plan of correspondence agreed upon by the joint committees of the Associate Reformed Church and the Dutch Reformed

Church, in the City of New York, 14th of June, 1816, in all its parts; excepting that part of article 5th, which relates to the mission "of two ministers and two elders"—In place of which your committee recommend the mission of two ministers, one of which shall be alternate to the other: —Excepting also that part of said article which relates to the *deliberation and advice* of the corresponding delegates; which your committee recommend may read in the following manner:—The minister appointed as a corresponding delegate shall produce his credentials at an early part of the session, and then shall be invited to take his seat as an advisory member; that is, he shall have the right to express his opinion on all subjects which relate to the general interest of the churches, or to the promotion of religion, but shall not vote on any question before the Synod.

STEPHEN N. ROWAN,
PETER A. OVERBAGH,
ISAAC HEYER. } *Committee.*

ARTICLE VIII.

Grievances.

The following report was received and accepted:

The committee on gravamina report, that they find nothing deserving the attention of the General Synod.

JAMES CHRYSTIE, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE IX.

Church Government.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE X.

Doctrines and Morals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XI.

Customs and Usages.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XII.

Schools and Christian Education.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIII.

Queen's College.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIV.

Professorate.

The committee on the professorate reported, and their report was adopted and is as follows:

The committee on the Professorate respectfully report—That they have carefully attended to the several papers submitted to them by the General Synod, and have most seriously deliberated on the important subjects to which they relate. They have endeavored to discover the path of duty to be pursued by this Synod, and they earnestly hope that the Great Head of the Church will approve and bless the measures which they have been induced to recommend for the adoption of Synod.

In relation to the monies which have been so liberally given to the General Synod by the late Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, it appears that there is now a considerable surplus of interest which has accrued beyond what has been requisite for the support of poor and pious youth for the gospel ministry. By the terms of the grant of those monies it appears, that such surplus may with the advice and consent of the General Synod, be used by the trustees of Queen's College for the good of that institution generally. Your committee therefore recommend that this Synod do now advise and consent that such surplus be employed by the trustees in the payment of salaries of the professors of the Theological College, until the general Synod, in unison with the board of trustees, shall see fit to designate some other purpose for which they shall be expended, always consistently with the terms of the grant.

As to our Theological College, your Committee are sure that there is but one mind in this General Synod as to the importance of the institution to the dearest interests of the Reformed Dutch Church. All will declare that it is essential to our prosperity; that it must be upheld, and that for its maintenance no efforts can be excessive. It is desirable to do far more than has hitherto been done. No doubt the General Synod would most readily render the support of our present professors more competent than it now is, and also increase the number of the professors. But our funds are inadequate. They are not even sufficient to pay the very moderate salaries of those already appointed. It is then of vital importance to add to the pecuniary means of the Synod, and to render them equal to our engagements, and indeed to the amount which may be required for the compensation of those who instruct our youth, and for procuring them the fullest course of instruction.

Your committee find that considerable difficulty exists in obtaining at every meeting of the Synod an exact account of the state of our funds and probable pecuniary means; they therefore recommend that Synod adopt some measure to obtain regularly a statement which as far as possible shall prevent such difficulty in future.

It appears to your committee, that the most promising plan for adding to the means of Synod, is the endeavor to establish cent societies in all our congregations, for the support of the Theological College. Some such societies already exist; and while they merit our thanks and our praises, they furnish strong, even conclusive evidence, of the efficiency of the plan, and of its promise to afford us continual abundance of means, instead of the past uncertainty and scantiness. Your committee recommend this plan to the Synod, with entire confidence that if adopted and vigorously pursued, it will not fail to equal our present wants and our reasonable wishes.

The offered donation, on certain specified conditions,

made by the Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, merits not only the prompt acceptance of this General Synod, but also their grateful acknowledgments. May the Lord account it *as the increase of the threshing floor, and as the increase of the wine press!*

As to the removal of the Theological College from the city of New Brunswick, your committee consider such removal as entirely inadmissible. No motive exists which would warrant the attempt to remove it; and the individuals whose memorial has been referred to your committee, do not promise any monies additional to those promised in June last, nor do they proffer any additional security for the prompt payment of the same. But even were the promises most liberal and the security most satisfactory, still your committee think that the covenant between the General Synod and the trustees of Queen's College requires the continuance of the institution at New Brunswick, so long as the trustees shall perform their covenant engagements and refuse to consent to its removal. And your committee have had before them an official document which show that they do not consent to the same. It is hoped that this Synod will put this subject at rest. The repeated agitation of the question produces no beneficial effect, but it is seriously injurious; inasmuch as it encourages the opposition of the cold, it satisfies the frivolous excuses of the luke-warm, and it paralizes the efforts of the best friends of the institution. It should be distinctly understood throughout our Church, that so long as the trustees of Queen's College shall adhere to their engagements, which they have done hitherto, so long the General Synod will not, and cannot in good faith, remove the school without the consent of the trustees.

Though the friends of a removal of the school may have different opinions as to the tenor of the existing covenant between the Synod and the trustees; though a refusal to remove the institution may disappoint them, yet it is to be hoped that they will not withold their support. Some of

them, your committee know, are determined to give their contributions liberally to the school without regard to its location; and if the avowed intentions of these praiseworthy men are to be regarded as indications of the general mind, then the final decision of the question of removal by this Synod may be expected to remove the influence of local considerations, and to induce every friend of our Church, whom God has blessed with the ability, to pour into our treasury many and abundant gifts for the support of our Theological Seminary at New Brunswick. The members of our Church in New York have already done much; they deserve our praises and our thanks. And while we commend and thank them, let them persevere in well-doing, and let the other parts of our Church do likewise, and our seminary will be amply endowed as we trust, through the divine blessing, to the glory of God, and to the prosperity and extension of our Reformed Zion.

Your committee have instructed their chairman to propose a number of resolutions founded on this report.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That this Synod do advise and consent that any surplus of interest which has accrued or which may hereafter accrue from the monies given by the late Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, beyond what has been or may be requisite for the support of poor pious youth in the Theological College, be employed by the trustees of Queen's College in the payment of the salaries of the professors in the Theological College, until the General Synod shall otherwise express their advice and wish.

Resolved, That the permanent clerk and the special treasurer be a committee, during the pleasure of the General Synod, to prepare and present to the Synod at every meeting, a digest of the debts and credits and probable receipts and expenditures of the General Synod, together with such suggestions as may be deemed expedient by said committee in relation to the pecuniary concerns of our Church.

Resolved, That this General Synod do thankfully accept of the donation of the Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, on the conditions specified by him and recited by the committee of conference, whose report is found in the minutes of this Synod.

Resolved, That the removal of the Theological School is entirely inadmissable.

Resolved, That it be earnestly enjoined upon the Ministers, Consistories, and Members of the Reformed Dutch Church, to take the concerns of our Theological College into their prayerful consideration, and give it their decided and active support.

Resolved, That until an adequate permanent fund can be procured, it is the opinion of General Synod that the Theological College can be maintained by cent and other societies; provided they be instituted and vigorously supported in all our congregations.

Resolved, That the following constitution be recommended to all the churches, viz:

CONSTITUTION.

Deeply impressed with the importance of having the Reformed Dutch Churches supplied with an able and faithful ministry; satisfied that this cannot be done without the aid of a well conducted Theological College, and desirous of contributing our mite to so important an object, we, the subscribers, agree to form ourselves into a society for this purpose, and adopt the following constitution:

Art. 1. This society shall be known and distinguished by the name of "The cent society of in aid of the Theological College of the Reformed Dutch Church."

Art. 2. Every person subscribing one cent or more per week shall be a member of this society.

Art. 3. The subscription shall be paid once in every months.

Art. 4. The officers of the society shall consist of a president, two vice-presidents, treasurer, secretary, seven managers, and four collectors, who shall be chosen annually, and constitute the board of direction.

Art. 5. The annual meeting for the election of officers

shall take place on the first Monday of November, at such time and place as the board of direction shall appoint.

Art. 6. The monies collected shall be transmitted once in months to the special treasurer of General Synod, and be at the disposal of that body for the support of the Theological College.

Art. 7. The board of direction shall meet quarterly on the last Mondays of January, April, July and October; and five shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

Art. 8. Special meetings of the society may be convened at the request of two members.

Resolved, That the stated clerk cause 400 copies of the preceding Constitution to be printed and distributed.

Resolved, That this Synod will now appoint agents in the several Classes under their care, whose duty it shall be to visit the different Congregations, to attempt the formation of cent societies, and to solicit contributions from the Consistories and individuals in aid of the Theological College.

The following persons were appointed:

For the Classis of New York—Rev. Selah S. Woodhull and Stephen N. Rowan.

For the Classis of New Brunswick—Rev. James S. Cannon and Charles Hardenberg, and the Elder, Mr. Peter B. Dumont.

For the Classis of Paramus and Bergen—Rev. John Cornelison, John J. Christie, James V. C. Romeyn and James D. Demarest.

For the Classis of Ulster and Poughkeepsie—Rev. Cornelius D. Westbrook, Cornelius C. Cuyler, Jesse Fonda and James Murphy.

For the Classis of Rensselaer—Rev. James Chrystie, Philip Duryea, Richard Sluyter and Nicholas I. Marseles.

For the Classis of Montgomery—Rev. Abraham Van Horne, Winslow Paige, John F. Schermerhorn and Coenrad Ten Eyck.

For the Classis of Albany—Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford,

John De Witt and Jacob Van Vechten.

For the Classis of Long Island—Rev. Dr. John Bassett and Jacob Schoonmaker.

For the Classis of Philadelphia—Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead and Peter Labagh.

Resolved, That it be recommended to all the Ministers and Consistories, to co-operate with the agents hereby appointed, and give them all the aid in their power to fulfil their commission.

Resolved, That in case any of the above agents are under the necessity, in the fulfilment of their trust, to absent themselves from their Congregations, the Classis to which they belong, at their request, be enjoined to appoint supplies for their pulpits.

Resolved, That these agents be instructed to solicit annual subscriptions and donations to the permanent fund for the support of the Theological Professorate, which shall be put into the hands of the special treasurer of General Synod for the time being; and the Synod do hereby pledge themselves to all subscribers and donors to the permanent fund, that nothing but the interest of said fund thus vested in the hands of the special treasurer shall be appropriated to the support of the Professorate.

Resolved, That it be enjoined on these agents to fulfil their commission before the next meeting of General Synod and report to that body.

Resolved, That the expenses of the agents be defrayed out of any monies they may collect.

Resolved, That the present appointment of agents supercedes the appointment of agents in 1815.

Resolved, That the special treasurer, agreeably to the suggestions in his letter, be and he hereby is directed to pay over all monies which may come into his hands for the support of indigent students, on the order of the board of superintendents.

ARTICLE XV.

Students in Theology.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVI.

Church Visitation.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVII.

Prevailing Sins.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Missions.

The committee on missions reported, that no business had been brought before them which requires the attention of this Synod.

ARTICLE XIX.

Widow's Fund.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XX.

Particularia.

The following report was received from the stated clerk, viz:—

By a resolution of the General Synod of June, 1817, it was resolved that the stated clerk have six sets of all the printed minutes of General Synod which he can procure, bound for the use of Synod. He reports that he has used all his exertion to obtain six complete sets, but has been unsuccessful. No such copies, therefore, are now presented to Synod, because a sufficient number are not to be obtained. The stated clerk, therefore, would respectfully propose to the General Synod, the printing in a volume all the minutes of Synod—He has reason to believe that a printer will take the work at his own risk, or at the usual price of printing at the risk of Synod. Probably this measure would not only pay for itself, but produce something for the funds of Synod.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Stated Clerk.*

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, John DeWitt and Henry Ostrander, be a committee to cause all the minutes of General Synod in existence to be printed in the octavo form, and procure the necessary translations from the Dutch into the English language; and that the said committee be authorised to use the printed extracts of 1797, and the manuscript minutes of that year which have lately been recovered, so as to present a view of the transactions of that session as far as practicable.

Resolved, That it be recommended to all the Ministers and Churches, as well as to individuals, to subscribe to the above named work; and that the committee having secured the copy-right, do pay all the emolument beyond the expense, into the hands of the special treasurer.

Resolved, That the stated clerk be instructed to send regularly a copy of the minutes of Synod, to the special treasurer of this body, and one copy to the treasurer of Queen's College.

Resolved, That the door-keeper's account be paid, amounting to five and a half dollars, including the expense of an express.

ARTICLE XXI.

Questorate.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXII.

Pastoral Letter.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Synodical Archives

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Resumption and Close.

The minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the stated clerk publish eight hundred copies of the minutes of this Synod, duly authenticated; that he distribute among the Classes the number of copies directed by them, and that he be authorised to dispose of the surplus copies at twelve and a half cents each.

ARTICLE XXV.

Adjournment.

Synod adjourned to meet in New York, on the first Wednesday of June, A.D. 1818, at 10, A.M.

Concluded with Prayer.

CORNELIUS D. WESTBROOK, *President.*

WILHELMUS ELTINGE, *Adsessor.*

JOHN GOSMAN.
JAMES CHRYSTIE, } *Clerks pro tem.*

SELAH S. WOODHULL, *Permanent Clerk.*

Official copy from the original minutes,

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Stated Clerk.*

THE

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH,

IN

NORTH AMERICA,

AT

NEW-YORK, JUNE, 1818.

New-York:

PRINTED BY A. PAUL, 182 WATER-STREET.

1818.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, convened in the City of New-York, on Wednesday, the third day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen. The Session continued from the third day of June to the eleventh day of June inclusive.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Opening of the Synod.

THE Synod was opened with prayer, by the Rev. CORNELIUS D. WESTBROOK, the President of the last General Synod. A sermon was preached in the evening of the first day of the Session, by the Rev. WILLIAM M'MURRAY, from Acts iv. 12.

ARTICLE II.

Members present.

FROM THE PARTICULAR SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

1. *From the Classis of New-York.*

Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Selah S. Woodhull, and Paschal N. Strong.

Elders, Messrs. Henry Rutgers, Richard Duryea,* and Abraham A. Remsen.

2. *From the Classis of Bergen.*

Rev. Ava Neal,◊ Jacob T. Field,** and John Duryea.†

Elders, Messrs. Thomas Blauvelt|| and Samuel Roome.‡

3. *From the Classis of New-Brunswick.*

Rev. James S. Cannon, Jacob I. Schultz, and Charles Hardenbergh.

Elders, Messrs. Francis Covenhoven,|| and Nicholas Arrowsmith.††

4. *From the Classis of Paramus.*

Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, Peter D. Frælig, and John I. Christie.

Elders, Messrs. Abraham Ackerman,|||| and David C. Demarest.

5. *From the Classis of Long-Island.*

Rev. Jacob Schoonmaker, Peter I. Van Pelt,‡‡ and Zacharias H. Kuypers.

Elders, Messrs. Aert Van Pelt, and Cornelius Van Cott.◊◊

* The Elder Mr Guisbert B. Vroom, *the primarius*, appeared on the first day of the Session, and took his seat as a member in place of Mr. Duryea.

† Took his seat on the 2d day of the Session, and afterward Rev. John Demarest, *the primarius*, took his seat on the 4th day of the Session.

‡ Obtained leave of absence on the 3d day of the Session.

◊ Succeeded on the 6th day of the Session by the *secundus*, Rev. Cornelius T. Demarest.

|| Obtained leave of absence on the 8th day of the Session.

** Rev. John Duryea succeeded Rev. Mr. Field on the 8th day of the Session.

†† Took his seat on the 2d day of the Session.

‡‡ Rev. Dr. John Bassett took *his* seat, as *secundus*, on the 3d day of the Session, and afterward Rev. John Beattie, *another secundus*, took *his* seat.

◊◊ Took his seat on the 4th day of the Session.

|||| Succeeded on the 7th day of the Session, by Mr. Daniel I. Haring, his *secundus*.

6. *From the Classis of Philadelphia.*

Rev. Peter Steddiford, Peter Labagh, and David Parker.

Elders, Messrs. John W. Hall, Nicholas Dubois, and William Sheepshanks.†

FROM THE PARTICULAR SYNOD OF ALBANY.

1. *From the Classis of Poughkeepsie.*

Rev. William M'Murray, and Herman Vedder.

Elders, Messrs. Henry Wiltsie, Martin Hermanse,‡‡ and Peter Ham.

2. *From the Classis of Albany.*

Rev. Gilbert R. Livingston, John De Witt, and Jacob Van Vechten.‡

Elders, Messrs. Storm Roose,† Garrit Benson,† and John I. Ostrander.||

3. *From the Classis of Ulster.*

Rev. William R. Bogardus, and Abraham D. Wilson.†

Elder, Mr. Simon Alsdorph.

4. *From the Classis of Rensselaer.*

Rev. James Chrystie, Philip Duryea,†† and Richard Sluyter.◊

Elder, Mr. Moses Cowan.*

5. *From the Classis of Montgomery.*

Rev. John F. Schermerhorn, and John P. Spinner.†

Elder, Mr. Alexander Boyd.**

‡‡ Obtained leave of absence on the 3d day of the Session.

* Obtained leave of absence on the 1st day of the Session.

† Took their seats on the 2d day of the Session.

‡ Succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Romeyn, the *primarius*, on the 2d day of the Session.

◊ Took his seat on the 3d day of the Session.

|| Took his seat on the 4th day of the Session.

** Obtained leave of absence on the 4th day of the Session.

†† Obtained leave of absence on the 8th day of the Session.

ARTICLE III.

Moderators.

Rev. William M'Murray was chosen President.

Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge was chosen Adsessor.

Rev. Paschal N. Strong and James Chrystie were chosen Clerks, *pro tempore.*

ARTICLE IV.

Reading of Minutes.

The minutes of the last Session of the General Synod, and of the Session at Kingston, in October last, were read.

ACTS OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Orders and Rules.

These were read.

ARTICLE II.

Standing Committees.

The following committees were appointed :

Committee on the Professorate.—Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, Dr. Philip Milledoler, Selah S. Woodhull, Gilbert R. Livingston, and John De Witt, and the Elders, Messrs. Moses Cowan and Martin Hermanse. The Elders, Messrs. Francis Covenhoven and Nicholas Dubois were appointed on this committee on Messrs. Martin Hermanse and Moses Cowan's obtaining leave of absence.

Committee on Synodical Minutes.—Rev. Peter Steddiford, and Jacob Van Vechten, and the Elder, Mr. Henry Wiltsie.

The Rev. Abraham D. Wilson was appointed on this committee when the Rev. Jacob Van Vechten ceased to be a member of Synod on the appearance of his *primarius*.

Committee on Correspondence.—Rev. Peter Labagh, Herman Vedder, and James Chrystie, and the Elders, Messrs. Aert Van Pelt, and Thomas Blauvelt.

Committee on Missions.—Rev. James S. Cannon, Paschal N. Strong, Peter I. Van Pelt, and William R. Bogardus, and the Elder, Mr. Henry Rutgers. Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge was afterward added to this committee.

Committee on the State of Religion.—Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Ava Neal, Jacob T. Field, David Parker, and John F. Schermerhorn, and the Elder, Mr. Samuel Roome.

Committee on Gravamina.—Rev. Jacob Schoonmaker, Peter D. Frælígh, Peter I. Van Pelt, and Philip Duryea, and the Elder, Mr. Peter Ham.

Committee of Overtures.—Rev Peter Labagh, John F. Schermerhorn, and Jacob T. Field, and the Elder, Mr. Richard Duryea.

ARTICLE III.

Communications.

A communication was received from the Rev. Samuel Helfenstein, informing Synod that the German Reformed Synod had appointed him and the Rev. Mr. Pomp, Delegates to this Synod, but that they could not attend; also a copy of the Minutes of the last Session of that Synod; both which were referred to the Committee on Correspondence, together with the letter of the Rev. Isaac Labagh, referred to this meeting of Synod, at the Session in October last.

The Agents, appointed in October last to attempt the formation of Cent Societies, and to solicit contributions from the Consistories and individuals in aid of the Theological College,

were called upon to report, and their reports were referred to the Committee appointed to prepare a Digest.

Rev. John Duryea presented communications, setting forth his having organized the congregations of Benton, in the county of Ontario; and of Fayette, in the county of Seneca, in the state of New-York;—which were referred to the Committee on Missions.

A communication was received from the Haerlem Female Missionary Society, stating, that Mr. Cornelius Bogardus is employed by them as their missionary, and requesting Synod to take measures to ordain Mr. Bogardus so soon as convenient; which communication was referred to the Committee on Missions.

The first annual Report of the United Foreign Missionary Society, including a recommendation of some alterations of their Constitution, as well as an account of their proceedings, was presented to the General Synod, and referred to the Committee on Missions.

The following report was received from the Standing Committee of Missions, viz.

To the General Synod, the Standing Committee of Missions, report, That during the past year, the Rev. Jacob Van Vechten and John F. Schermerhorn have been employed as Missionaries in Upper Canada for twelve weeks; that the progress and result of their mission are detailed at full length in their report to the committee, which is herewith submitted to the General Synod for their information;—that the committee have paid to each of the said missionaries for his services the sum of $195; that the treasurer's account herewith submitted exhibits a correct statement of the missionary fund at the disposal of the committee; that in lieu of Scott's Bible, which the committee were directed by the General Synod to transmit to the Rev. Mr. M'Dowal, they have, by particular request of Mr. M'Dowal, communicated by letter (of which a true copy is herewith submitted) supplied him with other useful

Theological books, equal in price to Scott's Family Bible, amounting to $30 37½; that the sum of $50, appropriated by order of General Synod for missionary services in the northerly parts of New-Jersey, remains unexpended, as no report of any such service has been made to the committee; that the committee are impressed with a strong conviction that the Canada missions are not productive of the good effects which ought to be the object of missionary labours. What other missionary ground can be occupied to greater advantage, is a point which the committee deem it their duty to submit for decision to the collected wisdom of the Church in General Synod.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JOHN M. BRADFORD, Chairman.

Albany, May 23, 1818.

Accompanying the above report were the report of the Rev. Messrs. Jacob Van Vechten, and John F. Schermerhorn; and the account current of the treasurer of the Committee of Missions, which is as follows:

DR. THE COMMITTEE OF MISSIONS OF THE REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH

			D.	
1817.				
July	11	To cash paid Rev. J. Van Vechten, and J F. Schermerhorn, in advance, as missionaries to Upper Canada . . .	200	
Sept.	17	,, paid postage of a letter with money from Rev. Dr. S. Fræligh		40
1818		,, ,, Rev. Mr. Van Vechten, in full for his mission to Upper Canada	95	
Feb.	13	,, ,, Rev. Mr. Schermerhorn, in full for his mission to Upper Canada	95	
		,, ,, for a map of Upper Canada	5	
	14	,, ,, for books to Rev. Mr. M'Dowel	30	37½
March	30	,, ,, postage of a letter with money from Jas. Bogart . .		40
May	11	,, ,, postage of a letter with money from Rev. Mr. De Witt, &c.		16
		,, uncurrent bills received from Rev. Mr. Gosman . .	2	
		,, do. received from Rev. Mr. Fræligh . .	1	
		,, do. received from Rev. Mr. Bronk . . .		28
		,, do. received from Rev. Mr. Ostrander . .		18
	22	,, paid postage of letter from S. S. Woodhull, and G. B. Vroom		21
		,, cash in Bank, &c.	482	33
			912	33½

IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH ELBERT WILLETT, TREASURER. CR.

				D.	C.
1817					
June	5	By balance of account rendered to General Synod this day . .		305	60
Aug.	5	„ cash from Rev. James Chrystie, collected in Church at Union Village, for support of missions		12	
	14	„ „ from Rev. N. I. Marselus, collected in Churches at Greenbush and Blooming-Grove		19	
		„ „ from Rev. J. Gosman, collected in Kingston . . .		51	
	25	„ „ from Rev. R. Bronk, collected by him		21	16
Sept.	17	„ „ from Rev. Dr. Fræligh, collected in Church at Hackensack		18	86
		„ „ from Rev. S. Ostrander, collected for support of missions		14	
Oct.	2	„ „ from Mr. I. Hutton, collected in Church in Garden-Street, New-York		33	32
	8	„ „ from Rev. Mr. Westervelt, collected in Church at Wynants' Kill		16	10
	9	„ „ from Rev. P. Lowe, collected in Churches at Flatbush and Flatlands		38	50
	17	„ „ from Rev. Dr. Bassett, collected in Church at Bushwick		15	12½
	28	„ „ from Rev. I. Y. Johnston, collected at Argyle and Fort-Miller		10	
		„ „ from Rev. P. Van Beuren, collected in Church at Schodac		4	50
Nov.	1	„ „ of Rev. Dr. Bradford, from Missionary Society at Poughkeepsie		50	
		„ „ of Rev. S. N. Rowan, collected at Church in Greenwich		20	18
	3	„ „ from Rev. A. Neal, collected in Churches at Pompton and Fairfield		22	
1818					
Feb.	6	„ „ from Rev. P. Duryea, collected in Church at Saratoga		6	67
	13	„ „ collected by the Rev. J. Van Vechten, and J. F. Schermerhorn, on their mission to Upper Canada . . .		59	
March	30	„ „ from James Bogart, Jun. collected in Church at Haerlem		17	
April	2	„ „ of Rev. J. Sickles, collected in Church at Kinderhook .		45	32
	22	„ „ from Rev. Dr. Brodhead, collected at North and Southampton .	$ 3 00		
		North Branch .	10 00		
		Harlingen . . .	12 00		
		Shannack . .	10 75		
		Philadelphia .	9 25		
				50	
May	11	„ „ from Rev. T. De Witt, collected at Hopewell and New Hackensack		25	
	19	„ „ from Rev. S. Van Santvoord, collected in Church at Belville . .	$5 00		
		and Stonehouse Plain	3 00		
				8	
				912	83½

ERRORS EXCEPTED,

ELBERT WILLETT, *Treas.* who, being near eighty years old, wishes not to be reappointed.

Resolved, That all the communications from the Standing Committee of Missions be referred to the Committee on Missions.

The Board of Superintendants brought in the following report, which was referred to the Committee on the Professorate; viz.—

In conformity with the order of General Synod, the Board of Superintendants of the Theological College, beg leave to make their annual report.

The Board communicate, for the information of Synod, the following summary account of the College, viz.:

The Board met in the Theological Hall, at New-Brunswick, on the last Tuesday of May, 1818, for the purpose of superintending the annual examination of said Seminary, and its other concerns. The Board found your School in deep mourning on account of the death of our greatly beloved and highly esteemed junior Professor. The Rev. Dr. John Schureman is no more. He is lost to his family, to the School, and to the Church. God who gave, has taken him away from us in the midst of his usefulness. But we must neither murmur nor despair. It becomes us to submit with resignation, and to say, The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

The senior Professor furnished the following list of the names and standing of the students of the College:—Cornelius Bogardus, David R. De Freest, and Brogun Huff, of three years standing; Jacob Fonda, John Peltz, James Romeyn, Henry Smaltz, John Vandervoort, of two years standing; Eli Baldwin, Jared Dewing, Isaac Fisher, Gabriel Ludlow, John Van Liew, Abraham J. Swits, Seymour Vonk, and Paul Wiedman, of one year's standing.

The Board having attended to the examination of all the students on Didactic and Polemic Theology, approved of their proficiency in said branches.

The Board then proceeded to examine Cornelius Bogardus, David R. De Freest, and Brogun Huff, (students of three years standing) on Ecclesiastical History, Church Government, Pastoral Theology, and the Hebrew Language, and being satisfied with their proficiency in said branches, and in Didac-

tic and Polemic Theology, the Board unanimously resolved, that the above named students be recommended to the senior Professor for certificates, which may admit them to examination for licensure before any Classis or Particular Synod. From the above statement, it will appear that three students have finished their course of study; and that thirteen remain in the School, five of whom have entered on the third, and eight on the second year of their term.

During the year past, the Board have granted for the relief of six indigent students the sum of $840, in the following proportions; to one student $180, to another $70, to another $155, to another $180, to another $135, and to another $120.

The Board take this opportunity to express their approbation of the faithful and unremitting labours of our venerable surviving Professor, and to express their fervent prayer that the Great Head of the Church may long continue him in the midst of us, as a blessing to his people.

From a view of the wants of our School, and of the state of our funds, the Board recommend to General Synod, that a successor to Dr. Schureman be appointed so soon as they shall deem it expedient.

The Board wish to add, that they have reason to expect an accession to the School in the course of the present year.

The Board, before they close their report, beg leave to call the attention of Synod to an existing irregularity in the School of Professor Fræligh. Whereas the General Synod have, by their statute of 1813, extended the superintendance of the Board over every student in the Reformed Dutch Church, so far as to render it the duty of every student, (previous to his commencing the study of Theology) to make himself known as such to the Board of Superintendants, and to consider himself as under their care; and whereas the Board have understood that there are at present, and have been for a year past, four students in the school of Professor Fræligh, who have hitherto not yet reported themselves;—the Board have

resolved, to refer the above case to General Synod for their direction.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By Order,

PHILIP MILLEDOLER, Prest.
W. ELTINGE, Clerk P. T.

An application was received from Mr. Isaac A. Van Hook for a dispensation, so far as to allow him credit for two years of Study, which he has already spent in the Theological Seminary in New-York, on his spending the ensuing year in the Theological College in New-Brunswick. This application was referred to the Committee on the Professorate.

A memorial was received from Messrs. Abraham Fort, James Brinkerhoff, Stephen Z. Goetschius, and George Dubois, students with the Rev. Professor Fræligh, which was referred to the Committee on the Professorate.

The Committee of Overtures reported, that no business had been brought before them.

ARTICLE IV.

Correspondence.

The Committee on Correspondence reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:—

The Committee on Correspondence beg leave to report, that the following subjects have come under their consideration.

1. The correspondence with the Synod of North Holland. On this subject the Committee have made the necessary inquiry, and regret to state, that no communications addressed to this body for a number of years have been received from our Mother Church. The Committee recommend the continuance of the correspondence, in order to manifest to the Synod of North Holland our undiminished desire to cherish and perpe-

tuate that Christian and friendly intercourse which our former and long-continued relation naturally suggests.

2. The correspondence with the Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States. From the minutes of that reverend Body which have been referred to your Committee, they learn, with peculiar pleasure, that our German brethren still manifest a disposition to continue the friendly correspondence with this Synod already established, and to strengthen those ties of Christian affection and brotherhood, by a joint co-operation in such measures as will have an evident tendency to build up their respective Churches, and to promote the great interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. As an evidence of this disposition the Committee refer to the appointment of the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Helfenstein and Pomp, not only as corresponding members, but also with directions to consult with this Synod in relation to a connexion, which it appears that reverend Body are desirous of forming with the Divinity School, under the care of this Synod. The above-named brethren not appearing, your Committee are consequently unable to state to what extent the views of our German brethren are directed. Accompanying the minutes of that Synod is a friendly and affectionate letter from the Rev. Mr. Helfenstein, informing this Synod that unforeseen circumstances have prevented his attendance.

The Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions :—

1. *Resolved*, That the correspondence with the Synod of North Holland be continued, and that the Particular Synod of New-York be and hereby is directed to draught and forward, together with our minutes, a letter in the Dutch language to that Synod, in order to revive the said correspondence.

2. *Resolved*, That this Synod are disposed to unite with the German Reformed Synod in the United States, in any measures which will have a tendency to strengthen each others' hands, and to promote the interests of their respective Churches.

3. *Resolved*, That the Rev. Peter Labagh, and Jacob I. Schultz, as *primarii*, and the Rev. Jacob Schoonmaker, and James S. Cannon, as *secundi*, be the corresponding members to attend the next meeting of the Synod of the German Reformed Church; and that they be and are hereby authorized to receive any proposals of that Synod in relation to the object referred to in the third article of the fifth session on their minutes of last year, and that the Committee be hereby empowered to digest and mature a plan for that object with a similar Committee on the part of the German Synod, to be subject to the ratification of both Synods.

PETER LABAGH, Chairman.

Resolved, That the stated Clerk of this Synod communicate to the stated Clerk of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, an official copy of the resolutions which this Synod have passed on the subject of a correspondence with that Reverend Body.

ARTICLE V.

Synodical Reports on the State of the Churches.

The Committee on the state of Religion reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on the State of Religion beg leave to report—

That they have carefully examined the minutes of the particular Synods of New-York and Albany, and have drawn from them, and from other sources, all the information they have been able to procure.

From the summary manner in which information is communicated by those Synods, on the state of Religion, your Committee are confined to general statements on this subject.

The state of religion, within the bounds of the Synod of Albany is, with but few exceptions, very encouraging.

Although there have been no general or very remarkable outpourings of the Holy Spirit, yet there is an increased attention to the means of grace, and a gradual advancement in vital piety.

The accounts received by your Committee, from the Particular Synod of New-York, are interesting indeed. Whilst copious showers of Divine Grace have fallen upon other districts of our country, and upon other Churches, this portion of our Reformed Zion has, in great mercy, been remembered by its Lord. Times of refreshing, from the presence of the Lord, have been experienced in several Churches, and sinners have been made to feel that the Gospel is the wisdom of God, and the power of God, unto salvation.

Your Committee are happy to observe that union in sentiment, and soundness in the faith, appear to pervade our Church. The Heidelbergh Catechism is statedly and regularly explained, and we believe it to be owing, under God, to this circumstance, —that we have hitherto been preserved from those dangerous innovations in doctrine which have threatened the harmony of other Churches. So long as that form of sound words, which happily and correctly expresses the truths of the Gospel, shall be faithfully explained and enforced, there is little danger of being carried away by those new speculations, and winds of doctrine, which arise from an ignorance of systematic truth.

Your committee have noticed with pleasure, that a more than ordinary attention has been paid by our Congregations, in the past year, to the institution of societies for social worship. The experience of the Church, in time past, has sufficiently demonstrated, that associations of this nature, when properly conducted, are nurseries of piety, and effectual means for preserving, among ourselves, and for extending to others, the savour of vital godliness.

It is worthy to be observed, that in those congregations within our bounds, which have lately been visited with Divine influence from on high, the first droppings of the showers of grace have been felt in their meetings for social prayer.

Family visitation, and the catechetical instruction of our youth, ministerial duties of high importance to the prosperity of the Churches, have, for the past year, been generally and faithfully regarded.

The discipline of God's house is reviving, and its government exercised in many parts of our bounds in such a manner as to be a terror to evil-doers, and a praise to them that do well.

The establishment of Cent Societies, for the support of our Theological College, has appeared to your Committee to be so closely connected with the general interests of religion in our Churches, that they have considered it to be their duty respectfully to notice them. These Societies are now coming into general operation. From what has been realized already, and may fairly be expected for time to come, they bid fair to become powerful auxiliaries in supporting our Professoral Establishments, and thus furnishing the Church with an intelligent, a faithful, and a learned ministry. Viewed in this light, it is hoped and believed that they will more and more engage the attention, and call forth exertions in their support, from every well-wisher of our Zion.

Missionary zeal, hitherto so languid, is beginning to revive. Our Churches will soon realize, we trust, that, whilst it is their duty faithfully to maintain the Gospel and its ordinances at home, it is also their duty to adopt prompt and vigorous measures for extending these inestimable blessings to every nation under heaven. As connected with this subject, your Committee have noticed with pleasure the late organization of the United Foreign Missionary Society, in the city of New-York. This Society, instituted under the immediate auspices of three great religious Denominations in our Country, bids fair to produce the most happy results. It is earnestly recommended by your Committee that it receive the decided support, and the fostering care of General Synod.

Although your Committee are obliged, in faithfulness, to state, that in many places iniquity abounds, and the love of

many waxes cold, yet they have found abundant cause of gratitude to the great Head of the Church, for what He has done and is still doing in the midst of us. He is increasing the number of faithful labourers in his vineyard, cherishing his Church, and riding forth upon the chariots of salvation, from conquering to conquer.

On a review of the whole subject, your Committee would suggest the following resolutions:

1. That it be recommended to all the Churches under our care to multiply their societies for social prayer.

2. That they concur with a large proportion of the Christian world, in setting apart the first Monday evening of every month as a season of prayer, for the revival of religion in the Churches, and for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom to the most distant nations of the earth.

The Statistical Tables accompany this report.

All which is respectfully submitted.

PHILIP MILLEDOLER, Chairman.

CLASSICAL REPORTS.

PARTICULAR SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

CLASSIS OF NEW-YORK.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	*Total of the Congregation.*	*In communion per last report.*	Rec'd. *On confess.*	Rec'd. *On certific.*	*Dismissed.*	*Suspended.*	*Died.*	*Total now in communion.*	*Adults.*	*Infants.*
New-York	Dr. G. A. Kuypers Dr. P. Milledoler Paschal N. Strong John Knox	340	1696	837	61	16	5	0	6	903	13	78
Garden-street	J. M. Mathews	180	950	104	46	13	5	0	7	151	9	72
Brooklyn	Selah S. Woodhull	150	750	132	6	6	4	0	4	136	0	24
German Reformed	Isaac Labagh											
Northwest	Christian Bork	240		440	102	11	6	2	6	541	11	105
Greenwich	Stephen N. Rowan	100	600	166	12	5	17	1	2	164	1	25
Bloomingdale	Dr. Alex. Gunn											
Haerlem	C. C. Vermeule	63		56	2	1	2	0	0	55	0	6
Fordham	*Has no pastor.*	40		24	3	0	2	0	2	25	2	10
Tarry Town	Thomas G. Smith											
Cortlandt Town	Abraham Hoffman	49							1	40	14	14

Rev John F. Jackson, and John Henry Dreyer, without a charge.

CLASSIS OF BERGEN.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certific.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults	Infants.
Bergen	John Cornelison	152	620	122	19	2	2			141		22
E. Neighbourhood	C. T. Demarest	141	817	63	9	1		2		72		19
Hackensack and	J. V. C. Romeyn	101	420	95	7				7	102		17
Schraalenburgh	J. V. C. Romeyn	151	569	153	16	1	1		7	168		25
Ponds	John Demarest	183	1058	105	5	3	5		2	109		34
Pompton	Jacob T. Field	140			29	3			5	46	1	26
Pompton Plains	Ava Neal	160	1080	92	15		2		3	102	1	37
and Fairfield	Ava Neal	156	844	50	12	1	2		1	60	1	26
Belville	S. Van Santvoord	98	587	49	21	2			2	70	1	21
Stonehouse Plains	*No pastor*	116	645	50	3		1	1		51	1	28
Preakness	*No pastor*											
Newfoundland	*No pastor*											
Boontown	*No pastor*											

Rev. John Duryea, and Peter Stryker, without a charge.

CLASSIS OF PARAMUS.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certific.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Tappan and	N. Lansing	160	784		60	3	2		5	202	1	42
Clarkstown	N. Lansing	208	951		9	6	3		4	178		42
Hackensack and	Dr. S. Fræligh	110	553		41	5	3	1	1	141		25
Schraalenburgh	Dr. S. Fræligh	147	753		13	5	5		6	183		27
Saddle River &	S. Goetschius	138	789		12	6	8		4	112		24
Pascack	S. Goetschius	79	248		13	3	2			54		14
Paramus and	W. Eltinge	170	1005	178	13	5	9		2	180		27
Totawa	W. Eltinge	130			14	5	5			67	1	15
Aquackenunck	P. D. Fræligh	240	1200		6	2			2	98		45
Warwick	John I. Christie											
Kakeat and	J. D. Demarest											
Ramapo	J. D. Demarest											

CLASSIS OF LONG-ISLAND.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certific.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Staten-Island	Peter I. Vanpelt	197	985	170	12	3			3	182	1	33
New-Utrecht	John Beattie	90		85								
Gravesend	* M. Schoonmaker	60	488	59	6				4	61	1	14
Flatlands and	Peter Lowe	67	560	40	1					41		
Flatbush	Peter Lowe	140	1160	114						114		
Bushwick	Dr. John Bassett	80	581	74		5			4	75		13
Newtown and	J. Schoonmaker &	88	550	82	7				2	87		17
Jamaica	Z. H. Kuypers	110	650	80	13				1	92		20
Success and	David S. Bogert &	48	290								2	4
Oyster-Bay	Z. H. Kuypers	52	300	44						44		9

* Rev. M. Schoonmaker is also a pastor of the Churches of New-Utrecht, Flatlands, Flatbush, Bushwick, and Brooklyn.

CLASSIS OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certific.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
New-Brunswick	John Ludlow											
Raritan	J. S. Vredenburgh	185		159	3	5	6		1	160		37
Six Mile Run	James S. Cannon	140	840		6	2			1	160		31
Hillsborough	John L. Zabriskie	95	600	119	25	3	4	2	2	141	2	34
Bedminster	C. Hardenbergh	168	1145	131	5	1	4	3	0	133	1	20
Middletown and	Benjamin Dubois											
Freehold	Samuel A. Van Vranken											
Walpeck	James P. Force	212		29	21	7	7	1	7	42	3	26
Hardwick												
Rockaway and												
Rockaway in	Jac. I. Schultz	200			22				6			
Lebanon												
Minising and	C. C. Eltinge	154			34	5			1	59	7	17
Mahakemack	C. C. Eltinge	128			80		5		2	110	8	25
Clove and												
Smithfield												

Rev. Andrew Grey without a charge.

CLASSIS OF PHILADELPHIA.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
					Rec'd.							
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	On confess.	On certific.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
1st. Ref. Du. Ch. of Philadelphia	Dr. Brodhead	270			69	12	4			402		
2d ditto	David Parker											
1st. Ref. Du. Ch. in district of Spring Garden		45								16		
North Branch	P. Studdiford	225			10	3	2			170		
Harlingen	P. Labagh	155			27	1	3	2		167		
Shannack	W. Smith											
North and South Hampton	Jacob Larzalere	120	720		5					70		

PARTICULAR SYNOD OF ALBANY.

CLASSIS OF ALBANY.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
					Rec'd.							
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	On confess.	On certific.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Albany 1st Church	J. M. Bradford				10	1		2	8	200	2	33
2d Church	John De Witt				24	8	10	2	4	185	4	20
Coxsackie	G. R. Livingston											
Boght			453	91	7			1	2	95		11
Washington and Gibbonville	Robert Bronk		332	11	12	9				27	1	3
Niskeuna and Amity	Thomas Romeyn		1304	170	8	4			3	179	1	55
Schenectady	J. Van Vechten		2518	342	53	5	6		12	332	7	46
2d do.	*No pastor*										1	25
Bethlehem and Coeymans	*No pastor*											
Helderbergh		145	803		2	3			5	140		90
Salem and	H. Van Housen	132	750		2		13			75		52
Jerusalem		80	500		2		3		4	70		40

CLASSIS OF MONTGOMERY.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certific.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Florida	Winslow Paige	256		124	12		2	1	4	129	3	40
Caughnawaga	A. Van Horne	200		220	7		2		3	224		95
Herkimer and German Flats	John P. Spinner	130		331	32			1	6	346		35
Westerlo and Middletown	John C. Toll	60		50	10	2	1	1		60		20
		62		65	17	4	2	6		78	1	42
Fort-Plain	J. C. Wack	260				3			9	330	2	50
Stone-Arabia		210							4	230		33

The other Churches in this Classis made no reports.

CLASSIS OF POUGHKEEPSIE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certific.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Poughkeepsie	C. C. Cuyler	300	1900	322	8	4	6	1	11	316		15
Hopewell	Thomas De Witt	95	700	114	6	1	2	1	3	115	1	10
New Hackensack		105	800	89	6	3				98	3	13
Kingston	John Gosman	280	1750	331	10	2			5	335		35
Rhinebeck Flats	William M'Murray	176	1000	142	3	2			3	144		13
Greenbush and Tackhanack	H. Vedder	270	1820	163	12					375		24
St. Johns and Linlithgow	A. N. Kittle	83		84	5	1	3		2	85	1	15
		109		65	10	2		1	1	75	1	21
Staatsburgh	P. S. Wynkoop	65			4	3				23	1	3
Fishkill	C. D. Westbrook											

CLASSIS OF RENSSELAER.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certific.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Wynantskill	R. A. Westervelt	209	1254	203	23	1	3	2	5	217	1	31
Saratoga	Philip Duryea	110		102	7	2	2	1	2	106	4	4
Union Village &	P. Van Beuren	140	914	92	2		2	2	1	89		17
Schodac		127	759	101	3		2		2	100	1	26
Schaghticoke &	S. Ostrander	60	250	58	2	3				63		26
Tyashoke		60	240	52	2	5				59		13
Greenbush and	N. I. Marselus	179	1209		22	3	3	1		122	3	51
Bloomingrove		104	626	73	5		1			77	1	14
Union Village, W.	James Chrystie	61	270	42	6	1	1		1	47	1	11
Argyle and Fort Miller	I. Y. Johnston	77	419	52	15	8	2	2	3	68	1	25
Claverack and	Richard Sluyter	239			18	3	6			237		30
Hillsdale	John G. Gebhard	50			8			1	2	70		9
Kinderhook	Jacob Sickles											

CLASSIS OF ULSTER MADE NO REPORT.

ARTICLE VI.

Synodical Appeals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE VII.

Synodical References.

The Committee on Synodical Minutes reported, and their report was accepted, and is as follows:

The Committee on Synodical Minutes report, That having examined the minutes of the Particular Synods, they find nothing in those of the Synod of Albany demanding attention; but in the minutes of the Synod of New-York they find,

1. A request that General Synod recommend to the Particular Synods punctuality in exchanging minutes with each other.

2. A suggestion from the Classis of New-York, whether it would not be expedient that General Synod take proper steps for dividing the Churches under their care into three Particular Synods; each of them to include, as their respective members, all the ministers, and one elder, from each of the congregations within their respective bounds.

3. The Synod of New-York call the attention of the General Synod to the vast importance of obtaining, from the Legislature of the State of New-York, an act of incorporation, that General Synod may be enabled to hold monies, and to manage their pecuniary affairs to the best advantage.

4. The Synod of New-York further request the General Synod to consider the propriety of suspending, during the successful operation of Cent Societies, the collections usually taken up by their order for the Professorate. And,

5. That General Synod enjoin the candidates, at their examination by the Classis of New-Brunswick, to pay $12 50 to the Questor of said Classis, or discharge said Classis from collecting said money.

All which particulars are humbly submitted.

PETER STEDDIFORD.
ABRAHAM D. WILSON.
HENRY WILTSIE.

In relation to the first article in the above report, the General Synod resolved that it be recommended to the Particular Synods to be punctual in exchanging their minutes.

The second article was referred to a special Committee, consisting of the Rev. Charles Hardenbergh, James S. Cannon, and John De Witt; and the Elders, Messrs. Francis Covenhoven and Martin Hermanse.

In relation to the third article, it was resolved that General Synod deem it necessary to obtain from the Legislature of the State of New-York an act of incorporation, that they may be enabled to hold property, and to manage their pecuniary affairs to the best advantage; and that the Rev. Paschal N. Strong, and Peter Steddiford; and the Elder, Mr. Nicholas Arrowsmith, be a Committee to report to General Synod the method best calculated to obtain the said act of incorporation.

The fourth article was referred to the Committee on the Professorate.

In relation to the fifth article, it was resolved that General Synod have no need to act in the business, as there is no order of General Synod, which has been found, that any charge be made to students, or candidates, on their examinations, excepting in relation to the expenses of the meetings of Classes for such examinations, the payment of which the Classes can dispense with at their pleasure.

The special Committee on the second article of the above report, reported; and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The special Committee, on the second article of the report of the Committee on Synodical Minutes, respectfully report, That, with regard to the minute of the Classis of New-York, which has been referred to this body by the Particular Synod, and which proposes an increase of the number of Particular Synods, as also a change of the mode of their organization, your Committee recommend to Synod the following resolution for their adoption, viz:

Resolved, That this Synod deem it inexpedient to adopt any measure, either for increasing the number of Particular Synods, or for altering the present mode of their organization.

CHARLES HARDENBERGH, Chairman.

The Committee appointed to report in relation to the act of incorporation, reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee appointed to consider the method best calculated to secure the purposes contemplated by obtaining an act of incorporation, respectfully report:

That having obtained information on which they could rely, they find that there is no constitutional or legal objection to an act incorporating the General Synod, as such, or a Board of Trustees appointed by them. The former method, your Committee would recommend in preference to that of having a Board of Trustees incorporated, and deem it the best calculated to secure the objects contemplated by the Synod, because,

1. There is no separate or independent interest established.

2. The General Synod have it fully in their power, at all times, to appoint such agents as are best qualified to serve them, and would always have the sole control of their own property.

3. The fidelity of the servants of the General Synod to the interests of that body requires this mode; for it is well known that agents are apt to be influenced by those who hold the purse.

4. The creation of a Board of Trustees, as it naturally produces a separate interest from that of this Synod, might, under some circumstances, lead to consequences which it is highly desirable to avoid, as exceedingly injurious to the welfare of the Church.

The Committee further report, that to obtain the object contemplated, it would perhaps be the best policy to appoint a committee to make application to the Legislature of the State of New-York, consisting of five influential laymen.

Your Committee would therefore recommend the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Synod, deeply impressed with the importance of being incorporated, do hereby appoint Messrs.

Abraham Van Vechten, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Henry Rutgers, John D. Ditmas, and Peter Sharpe, a committee to take the necessary means for procuring from the Legislature of this State an act of incorporation of themselves and their successors in office, as a General Synod, in order that they may be enabled to hold property productive of a yearly income of fifteen thousand dollars, (or as near that sum as possible,) and manage their pecuniary affairs to the best advantage.

All which is respectfully submitted,

PASCHAL N. STRONG.
PETER STEDDIFORD.
NICHOLAS ARROWSMITH.

Resolved, That if the Legislature should be unwilling to incorporate the Synod as such, the above committee be authorized to apply for an act incorporating Messrs. Henry Rutgers, Abraham Van Vechten, Abraham Van Ness, Isaac L. Kip, John Nitchie, Stephen Van Rensselaer, John I. Ostrander, Jacob Brodhead, Philip Milledoler, Selah S. Woodhull, John De Witt, James M. Mathews, Charles Hardenbergh, Paschal N. Strong, and Alexander Gunn, and their successors in office, to be annually chosen by this Synod, as a Board of Trustees, to hold in trust the property of this Synod, subject to their control and direction.

And further resolved, That in case such a Board be incorporated, any seven of them, when regularly convened, shall be a quorum to do business; and that Mr. Henry Rutgers be designated as the President of the Board.

ARTICLE VIII.

Grievances.

The Committee on Gravamina made the following report, which was accepted, viz.:

The Committee on Gravamina report, That nothing has come before them requiring the attention of General Synod.

JACOB SCHOONMAKER, Chairman.

ARTICLE IX.

Church Government.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE X.

Doctrines and Morals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XI.

Customs and Usages.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XII.

Schools and Christian Education.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIII.

Queen's College.

See *Questorate.*

ARTICLE XIV.

Professorate.

Resolved, That in future the Board of Superintendants consist of fifteen ministers; and that any five of them, when regularly convened, be a quorum to do business.

The period for which the Board of Superintendants was elected having expired, the Synod proceeded to a new election, and on counting the ballots, it appeared that the following ministers were chosen to form the Board of Superintendants of

the Theological College, until the meeting of General Synod, which shall be in 1821, viz.:

Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, John De Witt, William M'Murray, Cornelius C. Cuyler, John Cornelison, Selah S. Woodhull, Stephen N. Rowan, Jacob Schoonmaker, Dr. Jacob Brodhead. Charles Hardenbergh, Dr. Philip Milledoler, James S. Cannon, Wilhelmus Eltinge, Gilbert R. Livingston, and John Ludlow.

Resolved, That this Synod do now proceed to consider and define the duties of the second Professor in our Theological College, and to nominate candidates for the Professorship.

Resolved, That the duty of the Professor now to be chosen be to teach Biblical Literature and Ecclesiastical History.

A number of candidates were then nominated for such Professorship.

On the next day the Synod, after solemn prayer, proceeded by ballot to reduce that nomination to two, and then, of these two, to elect the Professor.

On counting the ballots, it appeared that the REV. THOMAS DE WITT was elected Professor of Biblical Literature and Ecclesiastical History in the Theological College.

Resolved, That the Professor of Biblical Literature and Ecclesiastical History be inaugurated into his office in the Dutch Church at New-Brunswick, on the third Tuesday in September next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.; and that, in addition to the inaugural address to be delivered on that occasion by the Professor, the Rev. James M. Mathews be, and he hereby is, appointed to preside and deliver a sermon, and the Rev. John De Witt to deliver a charge to the Professor: that the Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead be appointed as secundus to the Rev. Mr. Mathews, and the Rev. Mr. M'Murray as secundus to the Rev. John De Witt.

The Committee on the Professorate reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on the Professorate respectfully submit the following report:

The death of the late Professor, Rev. Dr. John Schureman, is an event which, however it may have been his incalculable gain, is deeply to be deplored by us. So amiable were his manners—so undoubted his piety—so acceptable his services—and so flattering were the prospects as to his usefulness to the Church, that we cannot but mourn that such a man is removed from our institution. But it is the Lord's will, and we are to be resigned; besides, the cause of our College, we trust, is the Lord's cause, and we are assured that *it* shall be promoted.

It appears to your Committee that the apology of the students with Professor Fræligh, contained in their memorial, ought to be accepted, and their request granted. And, also, that the circumstances of Mr. Isaac A. Van Hook, his being surrounded by a family dependent on him, and the absolute necessity of his personal presence in New-York, to settle his former business, are sufficient reasons for granting the dispensation which he requests.

It appears also to your Committee to be important to fix a limit, beyond which an indigent student shall not receive assistance from the funds in any one year.

And your Committee think that there can be no question as to the expediency of discontinuing the collections for the Professorate, in those congregations in which Cent Societies exist; of returning the thanks of Synod to the individuals, Consistories, and Cent Societies, who have afforded their aid in support of the Theological College; and of urging a continuance of the exertions so happily begun in conformity to the plan adopted by Synod in October last. These Cent Societies, in particular, promise the most effectual help; and as the drops of the rain of heaven, when collected, form mighty rivers and cover the earth with beauty and fruits, so these contributions of *cents*, if continued and made universal, would amount to an ample revenue for the Synod; by means of which all their pecuniary wants may be supplied, and our College most abundantly supported, to the beauty of our Zion and its incalculable advantage.

Your Committee recommend the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the students of Professor Fræligh be allowed for the time they have spent with him; it being understood that, agreeably to the order of Synod, they are without delay to report themselves to the Board of Superintendants, and to apply to them for examination before they can receive a Professoral certificate.

2. *Resolved*, That Mr. Isaac A. Van Hook be allowed for the two years he has already studied in New-York, and admitted as of two years standing in our Theological College.

3. *Resolved*, That, excepting in a very extraordinary case, no student be allowed by the Board of Superintendants more than one hundred and seventy-five dollars in any one year.

4. *Resolved*, That the collections in the churches for the Professorate, indigent students and the library, may be discontinued in all those congregations in which Cent Societies exist for the support of the Theological College.

5. *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Synod be, and they hereby are, presented to all those individuals, Consistories, and Cent Societies, who are aiding the Synod in support of the Theological College; and that the Stated Clerk be directed to transmit a copy of the minutes of this session of Synod to every Cent Society.

6. *Resolved*, That the Committees appointed in October last, to form Cent Societies and to solicit donations and subscriptions from Consistories and individuals to the Permanent Fund, be continued until the next stated meeting of Synod, excepting that in the Classis of Montgomery, the Rev. John F. Schermerhorn, Albert Amerman, and Nicholas Jones, be the Committee; and that all the aforesaid Committees be directed to bring in their reports to the next General Synod.

All which is submitted,

By order,

WILHELMUS ELTINGE, Chairman.

ARTICLE XV.

Students in Theology.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVI.

Church Visitation.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVII.

Prevailing Sins.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Missions.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, Jacob Van Vechten, Robert Bronk, and John De Witt, and the Elders, Messrs. Abraham Van Vechten, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Elbert Willett, and Leonard Gansevoort, jun. be the Standing Committee of Missions.

The Committee on Missions reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:—

The Committee on Missions report, that they have examined all the reports and documents referred to them, and as these relate to distinct subjects, they beg leave to call the attention of Synod to each of those subjects, in the following order:

1. The report of the Standing Committee of Missions accompanied with documents.

This report informs Synod that the Rev. Messrs. J. F. Schermerhorn and Jacob Van Vechten, have fulfilled, with fidelity and zeal, their appointment as Missionaries to Upper Canada, and for further information refers to an interesting account which those Missionaries have rendered, of the progress and result of their mission in that country. This account, drawn up with much intelligence, your Committee have read with no small pleasure, and with a view to exhibit those parts of it which are most interesting to us, they direct the attention of Synod to the following extracts.

There are in the Province of Upper Canada 11 Reformed Dutch Churches.

These Churches are situated as follows:

Townships.	*Congregations.*	*Remarks.*
Matilda,	1.	These 3 Churches are at present under the care of a Burgher Minister, who expressed a friendly disposition towards the Reformed Dutch Church. Number of communicants 60. Religion in a low state.
Osnaburgh,	1.	
Williamsburgh,	1.	
Ernestown,	2.	Under the care of the Rev. Mr. M'Dowell, who continues to labour with unwearied zeal in his Master's service.
Fredericksburgh,	1.	
Sophiasburgh,	1.	Vacant. The people here expressed a desire that a candidate should visit them.
Sydney,	1.	In a destitute condition.
York,	1.	Vacant. The people anxious to have a Missionary settled among them, and will be answerable for his support.

Besides these Churches, there are in the Province several towns, settled principally by people of the Presbyterian denomination, who in a religious point of view are in a very destitute state, and among whom, missionaries, if they could be engaged to occupy proper stations for the term of one year or more, might be employed with every prospect of promoting the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom.

From the above brief statement it appears to your Committee, that Upper Canada opens a wide field for missionary labours. That field, however, circumstances prevent us from cultivating in the manner that is desirable, and that would produce those benefits which we expect to derive from our very limited means. The western parts of the state of New-York, and parts of the state of Pennsylvania, to which the Reverend German Synod may be unable to devote their particular attention, we are persuaded, form, just now, the best missionary grounds. But while your Committee coincide in sentiment with the Standing Committee of Missions, "that the Canada Missions are not productive of the good effects which ought to be the object of missionary labours," they are convinced, that the attention of Synod ought not to be wholly withdrawn

from that country, in which "the desolate places" are so numerous, and in which so many souls are crying, "Come over and help us." It appears to your Committee, that in consequence of the contemplated removal of the Rev. Cornelius Schermerhorn into Canada, and of the disposition which one or more ministers of the Presbyterian order have manifested to connect themselves with our Church, that a Classis might be organized in that country. With a view to this important object your Committee submit the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That it be again recommended to Mr. Abner Wright, to apply to the Classis of Albany for examination, and that the Stated Clerk of Synod inform him of the pleasure with which Synod would view him as a regular licentiate in the service of the Church.

Resolved, That the Particular Synod of Albany be directed to take the most speedy and effectual measures to organize a Classis in the Province of Upper Canada.

2. The Report of the Treasurer of the Committee of Missions. From their report it appears, that the Treasurer holds in his hands a balance of 482 dollars 83 cents. Attached to this report is a request of the Treasurer, Mr. E. Willett, not to be reappointed to that office. On this request your Committee judge it to be inexpedient for Synod to act, as Mr. Willett has received his appointment of Treasurer from the Committee of Missions, to whom alone it properly belongs to accept his resignation.

3. In relation to the ordination of Mr. Cornelius Bogardus, your Committee beg leave to state to Synod, that the Female Missionary Society of Haerlem, composed principally of members in communion with the Reformed Dutch Church, have engaged said candidate to serve as a missionary during the present summer and a portion of the ensuing autumn, in certain parts of the state of New-York, where it is probable, that he might be more useful if qualified to administer the ordinances and to organize Churches; and with a view to such greater usefulness have applied for his ordination. It is im-

possible for your Committee to regard with indifference the piety and zeal which this application discovers. They highly applaud the efforts which the Missionary Society of Haerlem are making to extend the blessings of the Gospel, and hope that their pious example will be imitated by pious females in all our congregations. With a view therefore to encourage the work of missions by societies formed in our own Church, and at the same time not to injure the Gospel ministry by precipitate ordination, your Committee recommend to Synod the adoption of the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the Classis of New-Brunswick be directed to convene as early as may be, to examine the candidate, Mr. Cornelius Bogardus, and if on such examination they shall find said candidate qualified, to ordain him to the Gospel Ministry.

4. Your Committee have also had referred to their consideration the first annual report of the United Foreign Missionary Society, exhibiting a statement of their transactions during the past year, and submitting to the decision of this Synod some alterations in the Constitution of the Society, proposed by the Board of Managers. On this subject of reference your Committee would recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Synod earnestly recommend this institution to the patronage and support of the several Judicatures and congregations under their care.

Resolved, That this Synod do approve all the amendments of the Constitution suggested by the Board of Managers, excepting the *second*, which they consider to be improper and dangerous.

5. Your Committee have examined the documents, certifying that the Rev. John Duryea has organized two Churches within the bounds of the Classis of Montgomery, and on inquiry find that these documents are intended by Mr. Duryea to support an application which he now makes for pecuniary aid. Your Committee hope, that Synod will not countenance, in future, any application for monies as a compensation for Missionary labours undertaken without the knowledge and

direction of the Committee of Missions, and it is only in consideration of the advanced age of the Rev. John Duryea, and with a view to enable him to settle his family in one of those Churches lately organized by him, that they submit the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the Committee of Missions pay to the Rev. John Duryea, whose labours in the western part of the State of New-York have been useful, the sum of 100 dollars.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES S. CANNON, Chairman.

Resolved, That at some convenient time, during every Session of the General Synod, a Missionary Sermon be preached before the Synod, and a collection taken up for Missionary purposes; and that the Rev. John F. Schermerhorn be appointed to preach such Sermon at the next meeting of Synod, and the Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler be appointed his *secundus*.

Resolved, That the Standing Committee of Missions be, and they are hereby authorized to deposit with the President of the Classis of Washington 50 dollars, for the purpose of supporting a Mission, under the direction and superintendance of that Classis, to be carried on within its bounds, or in its neighbourhood.

Resolved, That the Classes be directed to comply strictly with the resolution of Synod, in June, 1817, in relation to the vacant congregations in their respective bounds, and to send up their reports to the Particular Synods.

ARTICLE XIX.

Widows' Fund.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XX.

Particularia.

The Committee in relation to the remains of the late Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, reported; and their report was accepted, and is as follows:

The Committee appointed on the subject of the removal of the remains of the late Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, and for other purposes, report, That they have fulfilled their commission in part; the remains of that much respected Father in the Church were removed to New-Brunswick last week, and interred agreeably to the direction of this Synod. The epitaph for the tombstone has not yet been prepared, owing to the want of biographical dates; these, however, have lately been received; and the committee have made arrangements for completing the business committed to them, in a short time.

PETER LABAGH,
CHARLES HARDENBERGH.

Rev. John De Witt, from the Committee appointed in October last, in relation to translating a part, and printing the whole, of the old minutes of General Synod, reported, That the Committee have as yet done nothing in the business.

The General Synod regret the loss which the Theological College, and the whole Church, have sustained in the death of their excellent and valuable Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Church Government, and Pastoral Theology, the Rev. Dr. John Schureman; and feel it to be their duty to give some public testimony of their high respect for his character and usefulness; therefore, *Resolved*, That a plain tombstone be erected over his grave, with a suitable inscription, declaring the important station he occupied in the Church, and the esteem which this body will long cherish for one whose praise was in all the Churches.

Resolved, That the Rev. Charles Hardenbergh, and Peter Labagh, be a Committee to carry the above resolution into effect, and that they draw on the Treasury Board for the expense.

The Synod was informed that the Rev. Dr. Bradford has paid—

For printing the Minutes of 1817, and Constitutions of Cent Societies	$179 75
He has received from Classes, for those Minutes .	61 25
And there is yet due to him for Minutes . . .	$118 50

which was ordered to be paid.

The Rev. Dr. Bradford resigned to the Synod his office of Stated Clerk; *Resolved*, That his resignation be accepted, and that the duties heretofore performed by the Stated and Permanent Clerks devolve upon the present Permanent Clerk, who shall in future be styled the Stated Clerk.

Resolved, That the Treasury Board be instructed to pay on demand all the expenses from time to time incurred by the present Stated Clerk, in the discharge of the duties assigned to him.

Resolved, as a standing regulation, That the Stated Clerk be, and he hereby is, directed to forward, so soon as possible, after they are printed, a copy of the Minutes of Synod, not merely to the Treasurer of Synod and to the Treasurer of Queens' College, as now directed, but also to each of the Professors in our Theological College, to the President of the Board of Superintendants, to the Treasury Board, to the Stated Clerks of the Particular Synods, to the German Reformed Synod, and to the Chairman of every Committee (being an Elder,) to whom, in those minutes, duties are assigned to be performed previous to the next session of Synod.

The late Permanent Clerk stated to the Synod, that, in the six sessions in which he had acted as Permanent Clerk, he had incurred expenses in the duties of his office to the amount of $57, and that he declined receiving the salary assigned him:

Resolved, That the above amount be paid.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk be directed to have printed, on the last page of the pamphlet containing the minutes of this Synod, a form, or forms, of bequests to this Synod; and, also, that he annex a statement, that "any person giving or bequeathing to the Synod property to the amount of thirty

thousand dollars, shall be considered as having established a Professorship in the Theological College, which Professorship shall for ever afterward bear the name of such donor;" and, "any person giving or bequeathing to the Synod property to the amount of three thousand dollars, shall be considered as having established a Scholarship in said College, which Scholarship shall for ever afterward bear the name of such donor; and, for every additional three thousand dollars, he shall be considered as having established an additional Scholarship, which shall for ever afterward be designated by such name as the donor may direct."

The doorkeeper presented his account for attendance and stationary, amounting to $15 50, which was ordered to be paid.

ARTICLE XXI.

Questorate.

The following report was received from the Special Treasurer, viz.

The Special Treasurer of General Synod respectfully reports, that there are balances in his hands, at present, amounting to $3073 29, viz.

Balance of ordinary account	$1366 47
special account	1148 9
Permanent Fund account . . .	558 73
	$3073 29

as will appear from the accounts now rendered.

And, also, that he has in his possession a certificate for $910 of stock, of the State of New-York; and one for $700 of stock, issued by the Corporation of the City of New-York; the latter of which belongs to the Permanent Fund.

G. B. VROOM.

June 5th, 1818.

ORDINARY ACCOUNT.

The General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in Account with G. B. Vroom, Special Treasurer.

1817		DR.	Dlls.	C.
July	15	To cash paid Staats Van Deursen, Treasurer of Queen's College .	204	36
Dec.	12	„ „ paid Rev. Dr. Schureman, in full of his salary to the first of October last	82	
	30	„ „ paid Staats Van Deursen, Treasurer of Queen's College, by order of the Board of Superintendants	410	
1818		„ „ paid Staats Van Deursen, Treasurer, on his draft . .	94	79
March	25	„ „ paid to the order of Rev. S. N. Rowan, Secretary of the Board of Superintendants	30	
May	27	„ „ paid to Mr. Isaac Fisher, in pursuance of an order of Rev. Dr. Milledoler, President of the Board of Superintendants	200	
June	3	„ „ paid Rev. Peter Labagh, on account of expenses incurred in removing the remains of the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten	20	
		„ „ paid Rev. Dr. Milledoler, on his draft as President of the Board of Superintendants	200	
		Balance to new account	1366	47
			2067	62
1817		CR.		
June	2	By balance of account rendered	204	36
	17	„ cash received from Miss Elizabeth Winfield, Secretary of the "Theological School Society," (Kingston) . . .	20	
July	8	„ „ from Miss Aletta Veghte, Secretary of "The Young Ladies' Tract and Cent Society of Somerville and its vicinity" .	60	
	21	„ „ from "The Bergen-Town Female Cent Society, for Educating Indigent Students," &c.	100	
Aug.	4	„ „ from the Treasurer of "The Female Cent Society of the Reformed Dutch Church at Greenwich" . . .	111	
		„ „ from Rev. J. H. Carle, collected in parts of the congregations of Bloomingdale, Kline Esopus, and New Paltz . .	6	
Sept.	15	„ „ from Mr. Samuel Delamater, collected in the Northwest Church, New-York	20	
	30	„ „ from Rev. James V. C. Romeyn, collected in the congregations of Hackensack and Schraalenburgh . . .	17	
Oct.	2	„ „ from Rev. David S. Bogart, collected in the New Dutch Church of Cow-Neck	7	7
	15	„ „ from Rev. Dr. Brodhead, Questor of the Classis of Philadelphia, collected in the congregation of North Branch 11 81		
		„ North and South-Hampton . . 4 91		
		„ Harlingen 5 00		
		„ Shannack 5 00	26	72
Nov.	11	„ „ from Rev. Mr. Field, collected in the congregation of Pompton	18	
	21	„ „ from Isaac L. Kip, Esq. one of the agents of the Consistory of the Church of New-York, for granting licenses to print the Psalm Book, viz.		
		For Lewis Deare's bond, principal . $180 00		
		Interest . 20 00		
		200 00		
		For license to Samuel Marks . . . 180 00	380	
Dec.	4	„ „ from Rev. Jno. Christie, collected in the Church at Warwick	10	25
		„ „ from Rev. Mr. Demarest, collected in the Church at the English Neighbourhood	10	15
		„ „ from Catharine L. Van Dyck, Secretary of "The Female Cent Society" of Kinderhook, for the use of indigent students	30	
			1020	55

ORDINARY ACCOUNT.....Continued.

				Dlls.	C.
1817		By amount brought forward		1020	55
Dec.	5	„ cash received from Rev. Wm. R. Bogardus, collected in the congregation of New-Hurly	$8 24		
		of New-Paltz	16 60		
				24	84
1818	19	„ „ from Rev. David S. Bogart, collected in the church of Oyster Bay		3	92
Jan.	19	„ „ from the Treasurer of "The Female Cent Society of the First Reformed Dutch Church in Philadelphia" . . .		100	
Feb.	2	„ „ from the Bergen-Town Female Cent Society for Educating Indigent Students, &c.		75	
		„ „ from Rev. Jno. Cornelison, collected in the congregation of Bergen		10	
	9	„ „ from Mr. Timothy Hutton, collected in the church in Garden-street, New-York		69	6
March	14	„ „ from Rev. John De Witt, collected in the 2d Church, Albany		66	31
April	6	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of the Reformed Dutch Church at Greenwich		89	
	21	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of the Dutch Church at New-Brunswick		40	
	22	„ „ from Rev. Mr. Jackson, collected in the church of Fordham		5	75
	28	„ „ from the Secretary of the First Female Cent Society of Hempstead, Rockland county		27	50
May	2	„ cash received for a quarter's interest on $700 of stock of the Corporation of the City of New-York		10	50
	4	„ „ from the Treasurer of "The *Male* Cent Society of the First Reformed Dutch Church in Philadelphia" . . .		50	
	5	„ „ from Rev. Dr. Gunn, collected in the congregation of Bloomingdale		8	44
	20	„ „ from Rev. Isaiah Y. Johnston, collected in the Female Cent Society of the Church of Argyle		5	
		„ „ from Rev. Isaiah Y. Johnston, collected in the Female Cent Society of the Church of Fort Miller		6	41
	22	„ „ from Isaac L. Kip, Esq. an agent of the Consistory of the Church of New-York, for granting licenses to print the Psalm Book, on account of money due from George Forman		185	19
	28	„ „ from Rev. Mr. Beattie, collected in the Church of New-Utrecht		16	
June	2	„ „ from Rev. W. Eltinge, for collections made in the Church of			
		Clarkstown	$8 00		
		Tappan	8 18		
		Paramus	8 30		
		Totowa	6 02		
				30	50
		„ „ from the congregation of Schenectady, by Rev. Mr. Van Vechten		33	
	3	„ „ from Miss Ann W. Hall, Treasurer of the Cent Society of New-Shannack, by Rev. P. Labagh—a quarterly payment		14	60
		„ „ from Miss Mary Skillman, Treasurer of the Cent Society of Harlingen, by the same—a semi-annual payment . .		24	
		„ „ from the Churches of Helderbergh, Jerusalem, and Salem, by the Rev. John De Witt		12	
		„ „ from the Bible Class in the 2d Church of Albany, by the same		32	18
		„ „ from a class of catechumens, in the same Church, by the same		14	
		„ „ from the congregation of Rockaway, in Lebanon, by Rev. Jacob I. Schultz		24	
				1997	75

ORDINARY ACCOUNT.....Concluded.

1318				Dlls.	C.
		By amount brought forward		1997	75
June	3	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of the Church in Greenbush, by Rev. H. Vedder		3	25
		,, ,, from the Male Cent Society of the same Church, by the same		3	
		,, ,, from the congregation of Greenbush, by the same . .		8	
		,, ,, from the congregation of Taghkanack, by the same . .		7	62
	4	,, ,, from Miss Aletta Veghte, Secretary of the Young Ladies' Cent and Tract Society of Somerville and its vicinity, by Jno. Frelinghuysen, Esq.		60	
		,, ,, from the congregation of Coxsackie, by Rev. Gilbert R. Livingston		70	
		,, ,, from Rev. Dr. Bradford, "made up partly of subscriptions, and partly of collections, in his Church for two years past"		433	
	5	,, from Rev. James Murphy, collected in the congregation of Rochester	$15 00		
		Warwarsing	10 00		
				25	
				2607	62
		By balance due General Synod		1366	47

Errors excepted.

G. B. VROOM, Special Treasurer.

Dr. *The General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in account current with* G. B. Vroom, *Special Treas.* (Special Account.) Cr.

			Dlls.	C.				Dlls.	C.
1817. June	20	To cash paid to the Rev. Dr. Schureman, on account of his salary	800		1817. June	2	By balance of account rendered	243	97
Oct.	7	,, cash paid to the same gentleman, on account .	318			19	,, cash received of Rev. S. N. Rowan, in behalf of the agents for collecting subscriptions in the Classis of New-York	686	
1818. June	5	,, balance to new account	1148	9	July	2	,, ,, received a quarter's interest on $1400 of State stock	24	50
					Oct.	1	,, ,, do. do. do. . .	24	50
							,, ,, received *ten* per cent. of the principal of do.	140	
					1818. Jan.	5	,, ,, received a quarter's interest on $1260 do.	22	5
							,, ,, received *five* per cent. of the principal of do.	70	
					April	1	,, ,, received a quarter's interest on $1190 do.	20	82
							,, ,, received *twenty* per cent. of the principal of do.	290	
						22	,, ,, received from Rev. S. S. Woodhull, in behalf of the agents for collecting subscriptions in the Classis of New-York . . .	754	25
								2266	9
			2266	9	June	5	By balance due General Synod . . , .	1148	9

ERRORS EXCEPTED.

G. B. VROOM, Spec. Treas.

Dr. *General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in account current with G. B. Vroom, Special Treasurer.* (Permanent Fund account.) Cr.

			Dlls.	C.				Dlls.	C.
1818. March	7	To cash paid Samuel I. Beebee, for 700 dollars of stock of the Corporation of the city of New-York, bearing 6 per cent. interest, at 1 1-2 per cent. advance	719	50	1818. Jan.	9	By cash from "The Female Cent Society of the Reformed Dutch Church in the city of New-York," by Mrs. Eliza Evertson, their Sec'ry $713 42 *Deduct*, a bill for printing their constitution . . . . . $7 50 And a counterfeit ticket of . . 0 50 included in the above sum. —— 8 00	705	42
June	3	„ balance to new account	558	73	April	10	„ cash—a subscription of the Congregation of Harlingen, for one year, by Rev. P. Labagh	50	
							„ cash—a donation of Mrs. Margaret Chinn, by Rev. John De Witt (received March 14) . .	120	
					June	3	„ cash—an additional donation of Mrs. Chinn, by the same	150	
							„ cash—from Rev. Dr. Bassett and Rev. Mr. Schoonmaker, agents of General Synod for the Classis of Long-Island	214	6
							„ cash—being part of an annual subscription of the Congregation of New Shannack, by Rev. P. Labagh	29	75
								1269	23
			1269	23	June	5	By balance due General Synod	558	73

ERRORS EXCEPTED,

G. B. VROOM, Spec. Treas.

The Questor's report was received, and is as follows:

Dr. *The Reverend Synod* (Delegates Fund) *with John H. Sickels.* Cr.

			Dlls.	C.				Dlls.	C.
1816. June	4	To cash paid Messrs. Hardenbergh and Schureman	14	50	1815. May	4	By cash received from the Classis of Paramus	16	
							„ cash received from the Classis of Bergen	8	
Oct.	19	„ cash paid Messrs. Rowan and Woodhull	12				„ cash received from the Classis of New-York	22	
		„ cash paid Garret Cozine	9	1	June	2	„ cash received from the Classis of New-Brunswick	14	
1817. Aug.	30	„ cash paid Mr. I. Labagh	30						
1818. June	6	„ balance	64	75	Oct.	3	„ cash received from the Classis of Philadelphia	20	
						10	„ cash from Church at Shawangunck	2	
						24	„ „ „ „ in New-York	38	26
					1816. June	4	„ „ „ „ at Paramus	2	
							„ „ „ „ at Aquakenunk	2	
							„ „ „ „ at Tappan	2	
							„ „ „ „ at Clarkstown	2	
							„ „ „ „ at Saddle River	2	
			130	26				130	26

MISSIONARY FUND.

			D.	C.
1817. Oct.	7	By balance of account rendered	67	29
1818. June	2	„ cash received from Church at Paramus	5	
		„ „ „ „ „ Totawa	5	
			77	29

June 6th, 1818. *JOHN H. SICKELS.*

The preceding accounts of the Questor and the Special Treasurer were referred to the Rev. Gilbert R. Livingston and Philip Duryea, and the Elder, Mr. John I. Ostrander, to audit them.

This Committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Special Treasurer and the Questor, report,

That they have examined said accounts, and find them accurately kept, and the balances correctly rendered.

G. R. LIVINGSTON, Chairman.

The following report was received from the late Permanent Clerk and the Special Treasurer, viz.

The Permanent Clerk and the Special Treasurer, who were appointed a Committee "to prepare and present to the General Synod, at every meeting, a digest of the debts and credits, and probable receipts and expenditures of the General Synod, together with such suggestions as may be deemed expedient by said Committee, in relation to the pecuniary concerns of our Church"—respectfully submit the following report:

The pecuniary concerns of the General Synod are various, and the preparation of the subsequent detail and digest has rendered it necessary to enter into a long examination of particulars, and to form numerous calculations. Although we have endeavoured to be diligent and faithful in our investigations, and accurate in our statements, yet we feel no little diffidence in making our report. For while we believe it is correct in every part, yet we are aware that it *may* appear that the information which we have received has been defective in itself, or misunderstood by us. Still, this consideration encourages us,—that even the imperfections of our report will lead to a clear and full exhibition of the truth; and we shall be the first to correct every mistake which may be found to exist.

In the hands, and under the management of the Board of Trustees of Queens' College, are two descriptions of monies, in which the Synod are interested, viz.: the monies received

from the late Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, which we shall designate as the Bunschooten Fund, and the Professoral Fund. With these we commence our statements.

I. THE VAN BUNSCHOOTEN FUND.

The sum originally given to the Synod, as appears from the Minutes of 1814, was, in obligations and cash, $14,640. Of this sum, the Treasurer of Queens' College has received $8,671 70, and five of the obligations are still unpaid, which are for $5,840. These two sums amount to $14,511 70, being $128 30 less than the original amount. abovementioned; the reason of which is, that the obligations transferred by the Rev. Mr. Van Bunschooten were without interest, and payable at different and distant periods; the payment of some of them has been anticipated, on the allowance of the customary *rebate*, which *rebate* amounts to $128 30.

On the residuary legacy of Mr. Van Bunschooten, which is now paid in full, there has been received $4,418 61

So that the whole amount actually received on this fund is	$13,090 31
The amount yet to be received, payable, without interest, in the years 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, and 1824, is	5,840 00
The amount now at interest, on bond and mortgage, at 7 per cent. is	12,750 00
And the annual interest on the same is . .	892 50
There is a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of Queens' College, (including his commissions) *of principal*	234 56
And there is, received and due, *of interest* .	1,141 00

II. THE PROFESSORAL FUND.

The original amount of this fund, received by the Trustees, as stated in the Minutes of Synod, of October, 1813, page 23, was . .	$16,172 57

This amount has become diminished in the following manner:

1. By an appropriation by the Synod in October, 1813, for defraying the expenses of the Theological Hall .	$3,000 00	
2. By an allowance to the Trustees of interest for 4 years on $2000. .	560 00	
3. By a payment of arrears of the Professor's salary, as ordered by Synod. (See Minutes of 1814, page 46.) .	800 00	
Amounting to		4,360 00
Thus the Professoral Fund now amounts to .		11,812 57
Of which sum, your Committee are informed that there is at interest, on bond and mortgage, at 7 per cent.		9,600 00
And that for the remainder		$2,212 57

the Trustees are accountable to the Synod.

So that the Synod ought to be receiving the interest on $11,812 57, which would be $826 88, annually.

But your Committee have to state, that they have not been able to learn that any interest has been credited to the Professoral Fund, by the Trustees, for the sum of $2,212 57; nor have they found that any interest was paid on $5,772 57, which was the amount in the hands of the Trustees, prior to October, 1813. Your Committee here beg leave to refer the Synod to the minutes of 1813, relating to this subject; and they would suggest that this Synod do appoint a Committee, who shall be empowered to examine this subject, and to make a full and final adjustment of the business. As a mere estimate, your Committee have stated the amount of this interest due from the Trustees, among the credits of the Synod, as *about* $1,100, which is on the calculation of interest for one year, on $5,772 57; and for four and a half years on $2,212 57. They wish this to be regarded as *a mere estimate, founded on the information they now possess;* and they would suggest that the amount, whatever it may be found to be, be invested in some public stock.

The amount of the sum at interest, on bond and mortgage, is $9,600 00

And the annual interest on the same amounts to 672 00

But this interest is very far from being punctually paid; the present arrears amounting to *about* $1000. Your Committee do, therefore, suggest that the Synod most earnestly recommend to the Board of Trustees the immediate collection of the interest now due, and the prompt collection of it as it becomes due in future, even though it should be necessary to foreclose some of the mortgages, in order to collect the money. And your Committee would further suggest, for the consideration of the Synod, the propriety of requesting the Board of Trustees to call in the principal, now loaned on bond and mortgage, and to invest it in some public stocks, that the proceeds of the same may be always regularly received.

III. THE LANDS BELONGING TO THE GENERAL SYNOD.

The taxes on a part of these lands were paid up to the 1st of October last. Whether any taxes are due on the other part of these lands, your Committee do not know. The taxes for the current year will soon become due. It appears, also, that none of the title deeds have yet been recorded. The value of the lands we have not been able to ascertain, and they are now wholly unproductive. We therefore respectfully suggest to the Synod, that a Committee be appointed to cause these deeds to be recorded, to pay all taxes which may be now due, or become due prior to the next meeting of Synod; and to inquire how these lands may be made most productive of advantage to the funds of the Church.

IV. THE SALARIES OF THE PROFESSORS.

The salary of Professor Livingston has never been regularly paid; and there is now due to him the sum of $605 45, which will be in full to the 1st instant. The salary of the late and regretted Professor Dr. Schureman is unpaid from the 1st of October last, and, calculating it up to the 1st instant, there is due the sum of $800. The inquiries of your Committee have

rendered them very sensible of the absolute duty of increasing the salaries of the Professors in our Theological College. In relation to all these particulars, your Committee do therefore suggest, that the sums now due for salary be ordered to be paid; that the salaries of the Professors be increased to the sum of $1,750 for the senior Professor, and of $1,550, and the use of the eastern wing in the college building, and of the college lot, for the other Professor; and, also, that Synod consider the practicability of making arrangements to insure the prompt payment of such salaries as they become due.

V. INDIGENT STUDENTS.

The amount necessary to assist indigent students is estimated by your Committee at $700, annually. We have found that the Board of Superintendants have, for some time past, *generally* required a conditional promise of repayment from those who have received pecuniary assistance. Your Committee would suggest to the Synod the propriety of recommending to the Board of Superintendants, that, in future, they *invariably* require from the students written obligations to repay the monies they receive, and that the Board, or some other person or persons, be instructed to demand such repayment after a reasonable period.

The amount of the sums paid to students, who have *conditionally* promised to repay the same, is $1,200, up to May 19th, 1818.

VI. LIBRARY OF THE COLLEGE.

This is yet small, and hitherto has very slowly increased. Your Committee suggest that the Synod appoint some person or persons to have charge of the Library, under such regulations as the Professors may make; and the same or some other person or persons to purchase books for the Library; and that Synod make an appropriation of 500 dollars for the present year, to be paid on the draft of the Committee so appointed to make purchases.

VII. DEBTS AND EXPENSES OF THE GENERAL SYNOD.

Besides the particulars already enumerated, there are some others, which have induced your Committee to insert this *head* in their report.

1. *The minutes of the General Synod.* The printing of these is as yet an occasion of expense to the Synod, and provision ought to be made to pay for the minutes of 1817, and of the present session. Besides, the money drawn for this purpose from the Missionary Fund, January 16th, 1815, amounting to 152 dollars 28 cents, and also 258 dollars in 1816, ought to be replaced.

2. *The translating and reprinting the old minutes of Synod,* as directed by a resolution in October last. It is possible that this may not eventually occasion any pecuniary loss to the Synod, but it will require no small advance for a time, and your Committee merely present this engagement of the Synod to their attention, that they may make such provisions at the present session as they may deem necessary or expedient.

3. *The contingent expenses of Synod.* Under this head are to be ranged the annual taxes on the lands belonging to the Synod, the expenses of the stated and permanent Clerks, the expenses of stationary, the doorkeeper, &c. while the Synod is in session, and the expenses incurred by Committees of Synod in the discharge of the duties of their commissions, which it is most reasonable that the Synod should defray. For all these purposes, the sum of 200 dollars annually may be requisite.

To meet these and similar expenses, the Synod have no fund whatever. Your Committee therefore suggest to the Synod the propriety of immediately adopting efficient measures to provide a contingent fund, to replace the monies borrowed from the Missionary fund, and to meet every contingent expense in future.

VIII. RECEIPTS.

Besides the funds already mentioned, the Synod receive, or may expect to receive, monies from the following sources.

1. *The proceeds of licenses to print the Psalm and Hymn Book.* On this account, there may be expected the sum of

568 dollars 19 cents during the present year. These proceeds are appropriated to the support of indigent students.

2. *The printing of the Constitution.* The condition of the agreement with the printer was, that he should pay to General Synod the sum of six cents for every copy *disposed of.* As the sales hitherto have been very limited, your Committee suggest that the Synod should not *at present* require the money now due, but authorize some person to demand and receive the amount now due, and which may have become due, on the first day of May next. The money from this source is entirely at the disposal of Synod.

3. *Collections in the Churches.* During the past year, these have become very small, probably from the formation of Cent Societies. Perhaps it will be deemed adviseable wholly to discontinue them so far as relates to the Professorate, Poor Students, and the Library, and so far as relates to those Churches in which Cent Societies exist for the support of the Theological College. We have estimated them for the year from June 1, 1818, to June 1, 1819, at 300 dollars.

4. *The Permanent Fund.* The amount of this fund, according to the information which your Committee have obtained, is about - - - - - $7008 70
And its annual product is estimated at about $455 00

5. *Cent Societies.* The Female Cent Society of the Reformed Dutch Church, in the city of New-York, has paid to the special Treasurer the sum of 705 dollars 42 cents, and has directed that sum to be added to the Permanent Fund, unless it should be *necessary* to use part of the principal for the benefit of indigent students.

There are some Cent Societies for assisting indigent students. Their payments for the year, from June 1818 to June 1819, your Committee estimate at 100 dollars.

There are other Cent Societies to aid the General Synod in support of the Theological College. What these Societies *will* produce is very uncertain, but your Committee think it safe to estimate the receipts from them, from June 1818 to June 1819, at 3000 dollars.

6. *The Stock of the Synod held by the Special Treasurer.* The amount of this Stock is now 910 dollars, and its proceeds annually may be estimated at 54 dollars.

7. *The subscriptions made in* 1815, *and which are now due, or will be due in August next.* The amount, which the Synod will receive of these subscriptions, prior to June, 1819, may not be estimated at more than 800 dollars. Your Committee suggest that these be added to the Permanent Fund.

8. *The annual subscriptions of congregations.* The Church at Harlingen has agreed to pay 50 dollars per annum for five years, to be added to the Permanent Fund. The Consistory of the Church of New-York have agreed to pay 350 dollars per annum for five years, to be "a donation to the Theological College."

9. *The minutes of Synod.* The printing of these ought to be a source of revenue to the Synod, but as yet it has proved otherwise. Your Committee suggest to the Synod the propriety of calling on the Classes, who are in arrears for the minutes they have received, for the payment of those arrears, and of urging all to make prompt payment in future.

10. *The donation of the Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge.* The Stock, in which this donation consists, has not yet been transferred. It may be expected to produce from June 1818, to June 1819, the sum of 15 dollars.

11. *Balances of Cash.* There is in the hands of Mr. John H. Sickels, the Questor of the General Synod, a balance of 77 dollars 29 cents belonging to the Missionary Fund, and a further balance of 64 dollars 70 cents, being the amount not expended of the monies raised for the compensation of Delegates.

There are also the following balances in the hands of the Special Treasurer, viz.

On his ordinary account	$1,366 47
On his special account	1,148 9
On the Permanent Fund account	558 73
	$3,073 29

12. *Legacy of the late Miss Rebecca Knox.* In the minutes of Synod, it appears that the original amount of this legacy was 2000 dollars; but your Committee have failed in their endeavours to learn when it will be paid, or whether it is in any degree productive.

In addition to all the preceding particulars, your Committee would respectfully make the following suggestions:

That the Synod cause exertions to be continued in all the Classes to form Cent Societies in all those congregations where they do not already exist, and to obtain subscriptions and donations to the Permanent Fund from Consistories and individuals.

That this Synod renew their request to the Board of Trustees of Queen's College, to agree in appropriating the *surplus* monies, accruing from the Van Bunschooten Fund, for the support of the Professors, in conformity to the communication of the reverend donor, as recorded in the Minutes of 1814.

That the office of Questor of Synod be discontinued; and that, in future, there be only one Treasurer of Synod.

The Committee deem it expedient further to recommend to General Synod to appoint a *Treasury Board,* consisting of three persons, to whom the Treasurer shall report, monthly, the amount of his receipts, from what sources they are derived, and to what objects to be applied. On the receipt of the Treasurer's report, the Board shall charge him for the amount he may have received, and credit, *in account*, the several objects to which the money, under the direction of General Synod, is to be applied. This Board should be authorized,

1. To draw upon the Treasurer, from time to time, as may be necessary, for the money in his hands, to answer the authorized appropriations, and to apply to their specific objects the benefactions of societies, congregations, and individuals.

2. To devise and carry into effect such plans as they may judge most advantageous for investing the monies that have been, or shall be, received for the Permanent Fund. This Board should be directed,

1. To keep an exact account of all monies drawn from the Treasurer, and of the manner of their application.

2. To keep a register of all the Congregations and Cent Societies, noting opposite to each the amount annually forwarded to the Treasurer.

3. To exhibit to General Synod, at every ordinary session, a detailed statement of their accounts.

It may be necessary to remark that your Committee have not exhibited the state of the receipts and expenditures for Missionary purposes, as the monies thus expended are collected for these special purposes, and the amount of expenditure must necessarily be regulated by the amount of the receipts.

And if any apology be necessary for the number of suggestions which your Committee have made, they hope that ample apology is found, in the expediency and necessity of these suggestions, in the circumstance that this is the first time the pecuniary concerns of the Church have been *thus* brought up to view, and in the earnest desire of your Committee to promote the interests of the Church.

It remains to add the following RECAPITULATION.

I. DEBTS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD.

1. To the Rev. Professor Livingston . .	$605 45
2. late Rev. Professor Schureman .	800 00
3. Missionary Fund	410 28
4. For printing the Minutes of 1817, June and October, *(estimate.)*	150 00

II. CREDITS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD.

1. For licenses to print the Psalm and Hymn Book	$ 568 19
2. From the printer of the Constitution, estimated to amount, May 1st, 1819, to . .	20 00
3. Amount unpaid (from June, 1817,) by the Classes for Minutes, estimated at . .	250 00
5 Amount of interest from the Trustees of Queens' College, as stated under the second head of this report, to be estimated at .	1,100 00

5. Amount of Cash in the hands of the Special Treasurer, (*not including Permanent Fund.*) .	$2,514 56
in the hands of John H. Sickels, of the Delegate Fund . . .	64 75
in the hands of the Treasurer of Queens' College, estimated at about .	1,070 00
6 Amount of arrears of interest on the bonds given for the Professoral Fund, estimated at about	1,000 00
7. Amount of arrears of interest on the Van Bunschooten Fund, about	70 00
8. Amount of obligations of students, for monies paid to them, (a part of which, it may be expected, will be refunded,) up to the 19th May, 1818.	1,200 00
9. Legacy of Miss Rebecca Knox, heretofore exhibited as amounting to	2,000 00

III. FUNDS OF THE SYNOD.

1. Professoral Fund, invested $9,600, in the hands of the Trustees, $2,212 57 .	$11,812 57
2. Van Bunschooten Fund, received $13,190 31, to be received $5,840	19,030 31
3. Permanent Fund	7,008 73
4. Stock held by the Special Treasurer, not included as Permanent Fund	910 00

IV. ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES FROM JUNE 1ST. 1818, TO JUNE 1ST, 1819.

1. Salaries of two Professors, for the year, .	$3,300 00
2. For indigent students	700 00
3. For the Library	500 00
4. Arrears of salaries of Professors . .	1,405 45
5. Repayment to the Missionary Fund . .	410 28
6. For contingent expenses	200 00

V. ESTIMATE OF RECEIPTS FROM JUNE 1st, 1818, TO JUNE 1st. 1819.

1.	One year's interest on the Van Bunschooten Fund . .	$ 892 50
2.	do. do. Professoral Fund	826 88
3.	do. do. Permanent Fund	455 00
4.	do. do. Stock held by the Special Treasurer	54 00
5.	One year's dividend on ten shares of Bergen Turnpike Stock	15 00
6.	From Cent Societies for indigent students	100 00
7.	do. do. the Theological College . .	3,000 00
8.	the licenses to print the Psalm and Hymn Book	568 19
9.	printer of the Constitution .	20 00
10.	subscriptions of 1815, (proposed to be added to the Permanent Fund,) .	800 00
11.	arrears on the bonds given for the Professoral Fund	1,000 00
12.	arrears on the bonds given for the Van Bunschooten Fund . . .	70 00
13.	arrears of Classes for printed Minutes	100 00
14.	The annual subscriptions of Congregations .	400 00

All which is respectfully submitted.

S. S. WOODHULL, Permanent Clerk.
G. B. VROOM, Special Treasurer.

June 8th, 1818.

After mature consideration of the above report, the Synod adopted the following resolutions, viz.

1. *Resolved*, That the Stated Clerk, the Special Treasurer, and Messrs. John I. Ostrander, Isaac Heyer, and William Sheepshanks, be a Committee, who are empowered to examine into and fully and finally to adjust, with the Board of Trustees of Queens' College, the account of interest on the monies of the Professoral Fund, which have not been loaned

by the said Trustees to individuals on bond and mortgage; and the said Committee are directed to pay the amount they may receive on such adjustment, into the Treasury of General Synod, or to invest the same in some public stock.

2. *Resolved*, That this Synod do earnestly recommend to the Board of Trustees, the immediate collection of the interest now due on the Professoral Fund, and the prompt collection of it as it becomes due in future, even though it should be necessary to foreclose some of the mortgages in order to collect the money.

3. *Resolved*, That this Synod do request the Board of Trustees to call in the principal now loaned, where the security is deemed precarious, and to invest it in some public stock or otherwise, so as that the proceeds of the same may be always regularly received.

4. *Resolved*, That Messrs. John Van Schaick, and John I. Ostrander, be a Committee to cause the deeds for the lands of the General Synod to be recorded, to pay all taxes which may be now due or become due prior to the next meeting of Synod, and to inquire how these lands may be made most productive of advantage to the funds of the Church; that they be authorized to draw on the Treasury for their expenses; that the Special Treasurer deliver the deeds into their hands, and that they be returned to him by the Committee.

5. *Resolved*, That the Special Treasurer pay the arrears of salary now due; and that the salaries of the Professors be increased to the sum of 1750 dollars for the senior Professor, and of 1550 dollars and the use of the eastern wing in the College building, and of the College lot, for the other Professor.

6. *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the Board of Superintendants invariably to require from the students written obligations to repay the monies they receive, on the conditions specified in the report of the Board in June 1816, and recorded in the minutes of Synod of that year; and that the Board be instructed to demand such repayment:—It being understood, however, that this resolution does not refer to mo-

nies which may be paid to indigent students from the proceeds of the Van Bunschooten Fund.

7. *Resolved*, That the Board of Superintendants be instructed to appoint a Librarian in the Theological College, to be under the regulation of the Professors and the Board; and that the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Selah S. Woodhull, and Wilhelmus Eltinge, be a Committee to purchase books for the Library, that a sum not exceeding 500 dollars, (as the funds shall be found to admit) be placed at their disposal for the present year, to be paid by the special Treasurer on their drafts, and that such Committee report to the next General Synod.

8. *Resolved*, That a Contingent Fund be established for the benefit of this Synod; and that to establish this fund, this Synod do hereby set apart and appropriate,

1. The proceeds of the copy right of the Constitution;
2. The profits arising from printing the minutes of Synod;
3. The balance in the hands of Mr. John H. Sickels on the Delegate Fund;

And that the Rev. Selah S. Woodhull, and John De Witt, and the elder Mr. John I. Ostrander, be a Committee to devise ways and means to increase the Contingent Fund, and to report to the Synod at their present meeting. This Committee reported to the Synod the following resolution, which was adopted by the Synod, viz.

Resolved, That the collections heretofore made by order of Synod, for Missionary purposes, be in future taken up in all our Churches for Missionary purposes and contingent expenses equally; that such collections be transmitted to the Treasurer of Synod; that one moiety of the same be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Standing Committee of Missions; and the other moiety be passed to the credit of the Contingent Fund.

9. *Resolved*, That the Special Treasurer be authorised and directed to demand and receive from the printer of the Constitution, the amount now due or which may have become due from him, on the first day of May next.

10. *Resolved*, That the sums hereafter collected of the subscriptions made in 1815, be added to the Permanent Fund.

11. *Resolved*, That all the Classes be and they hereby are earnestly requested and enjoined to forward without delay, to the Special Treasurer, the amount now due from them for the printed minutes of Synod, and to make prompt payment for them in future; and that the Special Treasurer report to the next meeting of Synod all those Classes who may be in arrears.

12. *Resolved*, That this Synod renew their request to the Board of Trustees of Queen's College, to agree in appropriating the surplus monies accruing from the Van Bunschooten Fund, for the support of the Professors, in conformity to the communication of the Rev. donor in 1814; and that the Committee appointed in the first of these resolutions be instructed also to attend to this business.

13. *Resolved*, That the offices of Questor and Special Treasurer be discontinued, that Guysbert B. Vroom Esq. be the Treasurer of the General Synod, and that all the duties heretofore assigned to the Special Treasurer, devolve upon the Treasurer of Synod.

14. *Resolved*, That this Synod adopt the plan of a Treasury Board, as recommended by the Permanent Clerk and the Special Treasurer in their report to Synod; that the Rev. Selah S. Woodhull, and the Elders, Messrs. Isaac Heyer, and Isaac L. Kip, form such Board for one year; and that they be instructed to endeavour to insure the utmost punctuality of payment to all those to whom monies are due from the Synod, and the utmost economy in expenditure.

Resolved, That every person transmitting monies to the Treasurer of Synod be, and he hereby is earnestly requested always to state precisely the sources whence those monies were derived, and the purposes for which they were raised.

Resolved, That the Committee, to prepare a Digest, be called upon to communicate in writing to General Synod the precise state of the accounts between the Board of Trustees of Queens' College, and this Synod, and how far that Board has

been faithful in executing their part of the contract, existing between them and this Synod.

In consequence of this resolution, the following report was received:—

The Stated Clerk, and the Treasurer, in obedience to the order of Synod, report, that the precise state of the accounts, between the Board of Trustees of Queen's College and this Synod, so far as your Committee know it, is exhibited in the detail and digest they have already presented. As to the faithfulness of the Board to the contract between them and this Synod, your Committee cannot undertake to judge the Board, inasmuch as the Synod alone can be regarded as their peers. But in reference to the particulars, which it has been stated on the floor of Synod, that it was desired that your Committee should notice, they would mention,

1. That the sum of $3,000, appropriated for the Theological Hall, has been expended; and that Hall has not yet been finished.

2. That the sum of $560, allowed for interest to the Trustees, was allowed on the understanding that interest had been allowed on $5,772 57, in the hands of the Trustees, by the Literary to the Theological Institution, from its reception.

3. That they understand that the Trustees are not now in funds so as to repay the $2,212 57, not invested by them, and your Committee do not know why that sum was not originally loaned on bond and mortgage; they merely observe that it is a part of the sum stated by the Trustees to be drawing an interest of seven per cent. Your Committee beg leave to remind Synod that the Board of Trustees have granted to the Synod the use of the College lot, and buildings, with the exception of the western wing and the room in which the grammar school is kept, until it shall be deemed expedient by the Board of Trustees to revive the exercises of the College.

S. S. WOODHULL, Stated Clerk.
G. B. VROOM, Treasurer.

ARTICLE XXII.

Pastoral Letter.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Synodical Archives.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Resumption and Close.

The minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk publish one thousand copies of the Minutes of this Synod, duly authenticated; that he distribute among the Classes the number of copies directed by them; and that he be authorized to dispose of the surplus copies to any individuals desirous of purchasing them, for twenty-five cents each.

ARTICLE XXV.

Adjournment.

Synod adjourned, to meet in the city of Albany on the first Wednesday of June, 1819, at 10, A. M.

WILLIAM M'MURRAY, President.
WILHELMUS ELTINGE, Adsessor.
PASCHAL N. STRONG, } *Clerks, pro*
JAMES CHRYSTIE, } *tempore.*

Official copy from the Original Minutes.

SELAH S. WOODHULL, Stated Clerk.

FORM

Of a Devise of Real Estate to the Theological College of the Reformed Dutch Church.

"I GIVE and devise unto A. B., B. C., and E. F.,* [*Insert the names of trustees*] and the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs of such survivor, as joint tenants, and not as tenants in common, all that [*Describe the estate to be devised*] IN TRUST, that my said trustees, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs of such survivor shall sell the same, and, after deducting therefrom all reasonable charges and expenses, pay over the proceeds thereof, and also the rents and profits thereof, accruing prior to such sale and until such sale, to the Treasurer, for the time being, of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, to be applied, under the direction of the said Synod, to the purposes of the Theological College of the Reformed Dutch Church aforesaid, now located at New-Brunswick, in the State of New-Jersey; and the receipt of such Treasurer for all and every of such payments shall be to them a sufficient discharge."

FORM

Of a Bequest of Personal Property to the Theological College of the Reformed Dutch Church.

"I GIVE and bequeath unto the Treasurer, for the time being, of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, the sum of [*Insert the sum*] *or* shares of the capital stock of the [*Describe the stock*] *or* [*Any other personal property*] to be applied, under the direction of the said Synod, to the purposes of the Theological College of the Reformed Dutch Church aforesaid, now located at New-Brunswick, in the State of New-Jersey; and for which the receipt of such Treasurer shall be to my executors a sufficient discharge."

ANY person giving or bequeathing to the Synod property to the amount of thirty thousand dollars, shall be considered as having established a Professorship in the Theological College, which Professorship shall for ever after bear the name of such donor.

Any person giving or bequeathing to the Synod property to the amount of three thousand dollars, shall be considered as having established a Scholarship in said College, which Scholarship shall for ever after bear the name of such donor; and, for every additional three thousand dollars, he shall be considered as having established an additional Scholarship, which shall for ever afterward be designated by such name as the donor may direct.

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* If there be only one trustee named, the devise must be unto "A. B. and his heirs." The persons named as executors in the will may also be named as trustees.

THE

ACTS

AND

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH,

IN

NORTH AMERICA,

AT

ALBANY, AUGUST, 1818.

New-York:

PRINTED BY A. PAUL, 182 WATER-STREET.

1818.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, convened in the City of Albany, on Wednesday, the twenty-sixth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen. The Session concluded on the same day.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Opening of the Synod.

THE Synod was opened with prayer by the Rev. WILLIAM M'MURRAY, the President of the General Synod.

ARTICLE II.

Members present.

FROM THE PARTICULAR SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

1. *From the Classis of New-York.*

Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Selah S. Woodhull, and Paschal N. Strong.

Elder, Mr. Abraham A. Remsen.

2. *From the Classis of New-Brunswick.*

Elder, Mr. Peter Voorhees.

3. *From the Classis of Long-Island.*

Rev. Jacob Schoonmaker.

4. *From the Classis of Paramus.*

Rev. John I. Christie.

FROM THE PARTICULAR SYNOD OF ALBANY.

1. *From the Classis of Poughkeepsie.*

Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler, and William M'Murray.

Elders, Messrs. Henry Wiltsie, and Martin Hermanse.

2. *From the Classis of Albany.*

Rev. Gilbert R. Livingston, John De Witt, and Thomas Romeyn.

Elders, Messrs. John I. Ostrander, Stephen Van Rensselaer, and Storm Roose.

3. *From the Classis of Ulster.*

Rev. William R. Bogardus.

Elder, Mr. Derick Westbrook.

4. *From the Classis of Rensselaer.*

Rev. Philip Duryea, Nicholas I. Marselus, and Isaiah Y. Johnston.

Elders, Messrs. Philip Staats, and James Brisban.

5. *From the Classis of Montgomery.*

Rev. John F. Schermerhorn.

Elder, Mr. Peter Swart, Jun.

ARTICLE III.

Moderators.

Rev. William M'Murray, President.

Rev. Paschal N. Strong, Clerk, *pro tempore.*

ACTS OF SYNOD.

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ARTICLE XIV.

Professorate.

A communication was received from the Rev. Thomas De Witt, stating that he declined accepting the office of Professor of Biblical Literature and Ecclesiastical History.

The President also communicated to the Synod a constitutional request, which he had received, to call a Special Meeting of Synod, and a copy of the Circular, calling this Meeting, " for the purpose of choosing a Professor in the room of the Rev. Thomas De Witt, and for transacting such other business under the Lemma *Professorate*, as Synod, when convened, may find necessary."

General Synod taking into consideration the deep interests involved in the object on which it is convened—realizing the inexpressible importance of unanimity and cordiality in the choice of a Professor, and the necessity of as general an expression of the views and feelings of the Churches on this subject as can be obtained; considering also that some of the Classes are very imperfectly, and others not at all represented on the present occasion, upon this floor,

Therefore *Resolved*, That Synod deem it inexpedient to proceed at this time to the election of a Professor, and that it be, and hereby is deferred to the next stated meeting of General Synod.

On the passage of the above resolution the yeas and nays were called for, and were as follows:

YEAS. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Jacob Schoonmaker, John I. Christie, William M'Murray, John De Witt, Thomas Romeyn, William R. Bogardus, Philip Duryea, John F. Schermerhorn, Isaiah Y. Johnston, John I. Ostrander, Derick Westbrook, James Brisban, Peter Swart, Jun.

NAYS. Selah S. Woodhull, Paschal N. Strong, Cornelius C. Cuyler, Gilbert R. Livingston, Nicholas I. Marselus, Abraham A. Remsen, Peter Voorhees, Henry Wiltsie, Stephen Van Rensselaer, Storm Roose, Philip Staats.

The following preamble and resolution were adopted by the Synod:

The Synod having received a letter from the Rev. Thomas De Witt, declining the appointment of Professor of Biblical Literature and Ecclesiastical History, in the Theological Seminary of the Dutch Church, and stating his reasons for declining that appointment: the Synod taking into consideration those reasons, and feeling their weight, yet hoping that, on more mature consideration, they may give way to the call of the Church, and the importance which the Synod attach to his appointment: and for the purpose of affording him an opportunity of reviewing those reasons, and of giving his final answer to Synod, at the next stated meeting of Synod, in June next, when an appointment will be made, in case he persists in his present resolution:—

Resolved, That the commission heretofore, by order of Synod, transmitted to him, and now received with his resigna-

tion, be again put into his hands by the President of Synod, together with a copy of this resolution.

At the request of the Agents appointed to collect moneys, &c. in the Classis of New-York, the Rev. Drs. Gerardus A. Kuypers, and Philip Milledoler, and the Rev. Paschal N. Strong were added to that Committee of Agents; and on a like request from one of the Agents in the Classis of Montgomery, the Rev. Abraham Van Horne was added to that Committee of Agents; and, on a like request from one of the Agents of the Classis of Rensselaer, the Rev. Isaiah Y. Johnston was added to that Committee of Agents.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the different Committees of Agents appointed by this Synod for the collecting of moneys, &c. in the several Classes, to maintain an active correspondence on the subject of their agency, their proceedings, their prospects, and their success, with the Treasury Board.

An account for the expense of printing Circulars was presented by the Rev. President of Synod, amounting to $2 which was ordered to be paid; also the Doorkeeper's account, amounting to $2 was ordered to be paid.

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ARTICLE XXIV.

Resumption and Close.

The Minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk publish seven hundred copies of the Minutes of this Synod, duly authenticated; that he distribute among the Classes the number of copies directed

by them; and that he be authorized to dispose of the surplus copies at six cents each.

ARTICLE XXV.

Adjournment.

Synod adjourned *sine die.*

WILLIAM M'MURRAY, President.
PASCHAL N. STRONG, Clerk, pro tempore.

Official copy from the Original Minutes.

SELAH S. WOODHULL, Stated Clerk.

THE

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF

THE GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH

IN NORTH AMERICA,

AT

ALBANY, JUNE, 1819.

New-York:

PRINTED BY ABRAHAM PAUL, CORNER OF WATER-STREET
AND BURLING-SLIP.

1819.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, convened in the City of Albany, on Wednesday, the second day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and nineteen. The Session continued from the second day of June to the eleventh day of June inclusive.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Opening of the Synod.

THE Synod was opened with prayer, by the Rev. WILLIAM M'MURRAY, the President of the last General Synod, who preached a Synodical sermon in the evening of the first day of the Session, from Mark xvi. 15.

ARTICLE II.

Members present.

FROM THE PARTICULAR SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

1. *From the Classis of New-York.*

Rev. John Knox, Isaac Labagh,* and Stephen N. Rowan.

Elders, Messrs. Jeremiah Johnson, Samuel Delamater, and Isaac Heyer.†

* In the absence of the Rev. Isaac Labagh, the Rev. James M. Mathews, a *secundus*, took his seat on the sixth day of the Session, for a part of that day.

† Took his seat on the second day of the Session.

2. *From the Classis of Bergen.*

Rev. Staats Van Santvoord.
Elder, Mr. Joseph Van Winkle.

3. *From the Classis of New-Brunswick.*

Rev. Samuel A. Van Vranken, and John L. Zabriskie.*
Elder, Mr. James Schureman.*

4. *From the Classis of Paramus.*

Rev. Dr. Solomon Frælígh,† James D. Demarest,* and Peter D. Frælígh.‡†
Elders, Messrs. Sebe Brinkerhoff, and Cornelius A. Blauvelt.*

5. *From the Classis of Long-Island.*

Rev. Walter Monteith, John Beattie, and Dr. John Bassett.*

6. *From the Classis of Philadelphia.*

Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, and Peter Labagh.

FROM THE PARTICULAR SYNOD OF ALBANY.

1. *From the Classis of Poughkeepsie.*

Rev. Thomas Dewitt, Peter S. Wynkoop, and Andrew N. Kittle.
Elders, Messrs. Ares Vanderbilt, Cornelius Van Vliet, and Philip Pitcher.

2. *From the Classis of Albany.*

Rev. Jacob Van Vechten,§ Samuel Kissam, and Dr. John M. Bradford.

* Took their seats on the second day of the Session.
† Obtained leave of absence on the seventh day of the Session.
‡ Took his seat on the sixth day of the Session.
§ In the absence of the Rev. Jacob Van Vechten, the Rev. Robert Bronk, a *secundus*, took his seat on the sixth day of the Session.

Elders, Messrs. Maus Schermerhorn, David Burhans, and Volkert D. Oothout.

3. *From the Classis of Ulster.*

Rev. Jesse Fonda, James Murphy, and Peter A. Overbagh.*
Elders, Messrs. Jonathan Myer,* and Adam Dickerson.*

4. *From the Classis of Rensselaer.*

Rev. Jacob Sickles, and Nicholas I. Marselus.
Elders, Messrs. Evert Van Allen, and Andries Witbeck.

5. *From the Classis of Montgomery.*

Rev. Albert Amerman, Henry V. Wyckoff,* and John F. Schermerhorn.†
Elder, Mr. Garrit I. Lansing.

6. *From the Classis of Washington.*

Rev. Isaiah Y. Johnston, Stephen Ostrander, and Ralph A. Westervelt.
Elders, Messrs. Thomas N. Clark,‡ Frederick Berenger,§ and Jacob L. Veelie.‖

ARTICLE III.

Moderators.

Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford was chosen President.
Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead was chosen Adsessor.
Rev. John Knox and Stephen N. Rowan were chosen Clerks, *pro tempore.*

* Took their seats on the second day of the Session.
† Took his seat on the third day of the Session.
‡ Obtained leave of absence on the third day of the Session.
§ The *secundus*, Peter Bloomingdale, took his seat on the sixth day of the Session.
‖ Had leave of absence from the sixth day of the Session.

ARTICLE IV.

Reading of Minutes.

The minutes of the last Session of the General Synod, and of the Session at Albany, in August last, were read.

ACTS OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Orders and Rules.

These were read.

ARTICLE II.

Standing Committees.

The following committees were appointed:

Committee on the Professorate.—Rev. Dr. Solomon Fræligh, Peter Labagh, Jacob Van Vechten, Stephen N. Rowan, and James Murphy, and the Elders, Messrs. Jeremiah Johnson and Evert Van Allen. The Rev. John Knox was afterward put on this committee, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the Rev. Dr. Fræligh's obtaining leave of absence.

Committee on Synodical Minutes.—Rev. John Beattie, and Staats Van Santvoord, and the Elder, Mr. Sebe Brinkerhoff.

Committee on Correspondence.—Rev. Isaac Labagh, Ralph A. Westervelt, and Stephen Ostrander, and the Elders, Messrs. Andries Witbeck, and Philip Pitcher.

Committee on Missions.—Rev. Walter Monteith, Nicholas I. Marselus, Jesse Fonda, and Andrew N. Kittle, and the Elder, Mr. David Burhans.

Committee on the State of Religion.—Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, Ralph A. Westervelt, Isaiah Y. Johnston, Stephen N. Rowan, and Samuel Kissam, and the Elder, Mr. Joseph Van Winkle.

Committee on Gravamina.—Rev. Thomas De Witt, Albert Amerman, Staats Van Santvoord, and Samuel A. Van Vranken, and the Elder, Mr. Volkert D. Oothout.

Committee of Overtures.—Rev. Isaac Labagh, Jacob Van Vechten, and Walter Monteith, and the Elder, Mr. Samuel Delamater.

ARTICLE III.

Communications.

A communication was received from the Rev. Jonathan Helfenstein and James R. Reily, informing Synod that the German Reformed Synod had appointed them Delegates to this Synod, but that they could not attend. This communication was referred to the Committee on Correspondence, together with a copy of the Minutes of the German Synod, which had been transmitted to this Synod.

Applications were received in favour of a number of indigent pious youth, desirous of devoting themselves to the Gospel Ministry, that such persons may be recommended to the Board of Trustees of Queen's College for aid from the Van Bunschooten fund; also a list of the Students in the Theological College who will require more or less assistance for their support during the remaining period of their studies; which applications and list were referred to a select committee, consisting of the Rev. Peter Labagh, Stephen N. Rowan, and Jacob Sickles.

This Committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee to whom were referred the application of sundry persons for aid from funds in the hands of the Board of Trustees of Queen's College, report,

That Cornelius Van Cleve, Richard D. Covert, Charles Whitehead, and John M'Lure have applied for aid during the prosecution of their Classical and Theological Studies.

In relation to these applications your Committee recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved, That Cornelius Van Cleve be and hereby is recommended to the Board of Trustees of Queen's College, for aid to the amount of $100 per annum, from the Van Bunschooten fund.

Resolved, That Richard D. Covert be and hereby is recommended to the same Board, for aid to the amount of $50 per annum, from the same fund.

Resolved, That Charles Whitehead be and hereby is recommended to the same Board, for aid to the amount of $150, from the same fund.

Resolved, That the application of John M'Lure be and hereby is referred to the Board of Superintendants of the Theological College.

The following persons have been recommended for aid in the prosecution of their Theological Studies by the Board of Superintendants, viz. Jared Dewing, Isaac Fisher, and Paul Wiedman, for one year, and Joseph Wilson and Isaac Ketchum, Jun. for two years. In relation to these applications your Committee recommend the following resolution:

Resolved, That the last-named gentlemen be recommended to the Board of Trustees of Queen's College for aid from the interest now due, and which may become due during the year, on the legacy of the late Miss Rebecca Knox, in the proportions to be determined by the Board of Superintendants.

All which is submitted,

PETER LABAGH, Chairman.

The Board of Superintendants brought in the following report, which was referred to the Committee on the Professorate; viz.—

The Board of Superintendants of the Theological College respectfully present to the Rev. the General Synod the following report of their proceedings during the last year.

A new appointment of Superintendants having been made by the Synod in June last, the Board organized at New-York; and on their own adjournment, met in the City of New-Brunswick, at the opening of the Theological College, in November, 1818.

The Board contemplated that the General Synod would have filled the vacancy in the College, occasioned by the lamented death of the late able and amiable Professor, the Rev. Dr. John Schureman. But finding that that Reverend Body had not been able to carry into effect the *desirable object* of supplying his place, in consequence of the declinature of the Professor elect; and believing that the interests of the Students would be materially injured by the suspension of the study of Ecclesiastical History, Church Government, Pastoral Theology, and Biblical Criticism, the Board felt themselves imperiously called upon to procure for them temporary Instructers in those respective branches. Accordingly they appointed a Committee to "inquire by what means and upon what terms instruction might be furnished to the Theological Students *during the Session* in those branches." This Committee found, on inquiry, that the Rev. James S. Cannon and Mr. John S. Mabon, who were in the vicinity of the College, might be obtained for those purposes.

The *terms* on which the *Committee* prevailed upon those gentlemen to render their respective services were so *moderate*, and so completely within the reach of the means of the Treasury, that the *Board* resolved to comply with them; and accordingly appointed the Rev. James S. Cannon to teach Ecclesiastical History, Church Government, and Pastoral Theology, and Mr. John S. Mabon to teach the Hebrew and Greek languages, during the Session. The Board are happy to be able to inform General Synod, that the above-named gentlemen entered *immediately* and *zealously* on the discharge of the duties assigned them; and, so far as their other engagements would permit, have unremittingly discharged those duties to the *close* of the Session.

At the same meeting the Board "respectfully requested the Rev. Dr. Livingston to publish his Lectures, as a measure calculated to be of vast advantage to the Students—to the Institution—and to the Church at large." The Board have as yet received no answer to their request.

The Board again met at New-Brunswick, on the last Tuesday of May, for the purpose of superintending the annual examination of the College. On this occasion Professor Livingston laid before the Board the following list of Students, viz. Jacob Fonda, James Romeyn, Henry Smaltz, John Van Devoort, Isaac A. Van Hook, and John Rawls, of THE FIRST CLASS; Eli Baldwin, Jared Dewing, Isaac Fisher, Gabriel Ludlow, John Van Lieuw, Abraham I. Switz, Seymour P. Funck, and Paul Wiedman, of THE SECOND CLASS; Maurice W. Dwight, Joseph Wilson, Peter P. Rouse, James Bruyn Ten Eyck, and Isaac Ketchum, Jun. of THE THIRD CLASS. James Brinckerhoof, Stephen Z. Goetschius, George Dubois, and Abraham Fort, Students of Professor Frælígh, who, in obedience to the order of General Synod, had previously reported themselves to the President of the Board, were also present at the examination. The three first of these last-named gentlemen applied for examination, with a view to obtaining Professoral Certificates previous to Licensure. The Board attended to the examination of the above-named Students, on Didactic and Polemic Theology, Ecclesiastical History, and Church Government. And the *first class* were further examined on Pastoral Theology, and the Hebrew and Greek Languages. And the result of the examination was a most favourable impression of the diligence and qualifications of the Students in general, and of the assiduity and devotedness to the interests of those Students, of the gentlemen who were engaged in their instruction.

Messrs. Jacob Fonda, James Romeyn, Henry Smaltz, John Van Devoort, Isaac A. Van Hook, John Rawls, James Brinckerhoof, Stephen Z. Goetschius, and George Dubois, who had com-

pleted their course of study, were recommended for a Professoral Certificate.

There are thirteen students remaining in the Seminary; and the Board are happy to state, from information received, that there is a prospect of a considerable accession to the College during the present year.

During the last year $1315 have been appropriated for the use of Indigent Students, in the following proportions, (viz.) to four persons, each $150; to one, $135, to another $120; to another $60; to two others, each $100; and to another $30, on arrearages of the previous year, and $170 for the past year.

As the demand upon the fund for the relief of Indigent Students increases in proportion to the increase of their number; and as the Board have, from the limited resources at their disposal, felt it their duty to adhere to a system of rigid economy, they have appointed a Committee to "inquire into the practicability of procuring some person or persons who will furnish Board, Rooms, Washing, &c. to the Indigent Students at a lower rate than the prices now paid by them, and in general into the possibility of reducing the expenses incurred by the Indigent Students." And the Students have accordingly been directed to make no engagements in the city of New-Brunswick inconsistent with the plans of economy adopted by the Board.

With gratitude to the Great Head of the Church, the Board inform Synod, that the health and usefulness of their Venerable Professor Livingston are still continued; and that at his advanced age, he is, with his usual devotedness and ability, blessing the Church, by communicating to her successive Ministers, that theological information, for which he is so eminently distinguished. And they would do injustice to the Rev. James S. Cannon, and Mr. John S. Mabon, if they did not also inform the General Synod, that those gentlemen have industriously, ably, and successfully discharged the duties assigned them. The Students manifested such an acquaintance with ancient, sacred, and profane history; with the history of the Church since the commencement of the Christian era; with her government and

the duties of the Pastoral office, as did honour to their diligence and talents, and complimented the qualifications of their temporary Instructer. They also manifested an acquaintance with the Hebrew and Greek languages, which proved that Mr. Mabon had discharged his duty with his known ability and faithfulness.

It is gratifying to the Board to be able to inform the Synod, that instruction has been communicated to the Students on most of the branches contemplated to be taught by *two* additional Professors, at an expense *less than one-third* of the salary allowed to *one* Professor.

The Board cannot close their Report without congratulating themselves and the Synod, on the fact that nine additional heralds of the cross, are about to receive the commission, "Go ye, and preach the Gospel:" that our Theological College, which has been the object of so many prayers, and of so much fostering care, is in a flourishing state, and promises to be an increased blessing to the Churches, in furnishing them with able and faithful Ministers.

The Board, in the exercise of the powers vested in them by the plan of the Institution, respectfully, but earnestly urge upon General Synod, the completion of the organization of the Theological College.

Our present venerable Professor, it is well known, is advanced in years; and if the Master should be pleased to dismiss him soon from his earthly service, our Seminary would be without any Professor. We cannot expect that *temporary instructers* can be obtained from year to year. The honour of the Church, and the interests of the College, demand that the vacant Professorships be filled as soon as possible; and that such permanent arrangements be made on this subject as will command the confidence of the community, and make the Institution an increased blessing to the Church and the world.

The Board respectfully request the General Synod,

1st. To direct their Stated Clerk to furnish the Board, so far as practicable, with a copy of all their past and future minutes.

2d. To change the day of the annual examination of the

Theological College from the last *Tuesday* in May to the fourth Monday in May.

3d. Again to intrust the admission of Students into the Theological College to the Board of Superintendants.

By order of the Board,

SELAH S. WOODHULL, President p. t.
STEPHEN. N. ROWAN, Secretary.

Theological Hall, New-Brunswick, May 27, 1819.

The following Report was received from the Standing Committee of Missions, viz.—

The Standing Committee of Missions, appointed by the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, respectfully report, That the Committee have, since their last annual report, employed two Missionaries. The Rev. Mr. Allen, a licensed Presbyterian candidate, was sent out to the county of St. Lawrence, and through the Dutch settlements along the line between this State and Canada. He set out on his Mission during the last summer; but has not yet returned, nor has he made any report to the Committee. It is therefore out of their power to inform the General Synod how he has executed his Mission.

The Rev. Mr. Cornelius Bogardus was engaged for the term of ten weeks, who set out on his Mission about the nineteenth day of January last past, with written instructions, of which a copy is hereto annexed.

The result of his Mission, and the information which he has communicated to the Committee, appear by the Journal herewith transmitted.

The state of the Missionary Fund, at the disposal of the Committee, and their expenditures during the past year, will appear to the General Synod from the Treasurer's Report herewith submitted.

No information has been received by the Committee from which they are enabled to suggest to the General Synod any proper missionary fields for the ensuing year.

All which is submitted.

By Order,

JOHN M. BRADFORD,

President of the Standing Committee of Missions.

Albany, May 27, 1819.

Accompanying the above Report were the journal of the Rev. Cornelius Bogardus, and the Report of the Treasurer of the Committee, all which were referred to the Committee on Missions.

The following is the Report of the Treasurer of the Committee, viz.—

Dr. *The Standing Committee of Missions of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church in account with* Elbert Willett, *Treasurer.* Cr.

				Dlls.	C.					Dlls.	C.
1818.	June	27	To cash paid to the Rev. John Duryea, pursuant of a resolution of last Synod . .	100		1818.	May	22	By balance per account rendered to Committee this day	482	83
	July	8	„ „ paid Mr. George Allen in advance as missionary to the frontiers of this State to Canada line	150			August	12	„ cash received from the Rev. H. Van Hoesen, collected in his congregations, Church at Hilderbergh . . . $7		
1819.	Jan.	19	„ „ paid to the Rev. Cornelius Bogardus in advance as Missionary to Chiteningo, Croille, Pompey, and county of Madison .	50					Jerusalem 2 50		
									Salem 2 50	12	
	May	22	„ „ paid to the Rev. C. Bogardus, in full for the above mission	130				27	„ „ received from Mr. G. B. Vroom .	77	29
			„ „ in Bank of Albany	159	87	1819.	May	22	„ „ received from the Rev. C. Bogardus, collected on his mission . . .	17	75
				589	87					589	87

ERRORS EXCEPTED.

ELBERT WILLETT, Treasurer.

An application for a dispensation from Mr. Isaac Ferris, who has been studying for two years in the Seminary of the Associate Reformed Church, was received, and referred to the Committee on the Professorate.

A communication was received from Mr. Joseph H. Schreiner, Secretary of the Missionary Society of the Reformed Dutch Churches in the city and vicinity of Philadelphia, informing Synod of the formation of such Society, inclosing a copy of their Constitution. and requesting Synod to order the collections annually taken up for Missionary purposes in those Churches which compose the Classis of Philadelphia, to be paid to the Treasurer of said Society for their benefit, and also to grant them for this year, out of the funds in the hands of the Committee of Missions, one hundred dollars. This communication was referred to the Committee on Missions.

A number of copies of the Second Annual Report of the United Foreign Missionary Society were laid on the table of Synod, for the use of the members, and the said report was referred to the Committee on Missions.

The Committee of Overtures reported that no business had been brought before them.

ARTICLE IV.

Correspondence.

A certified extract from the Minutes of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, at their Session on the 19th of May last, was received, from which it appeared that the Rev. Dr. Proudfit was appointed by that Body a Commissioner to attend this meeting of Synod. The Rev. Dr. Alexander Proudfit appeared on the floor of Synod, and was invited to sit as a Commissioner from the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead be appointed a Commissioner from this Synod to attend the next meeting of

the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, and that the Rev. David Parker be appointed his *secundus*.

The Committee on Correspondence reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows :—

The Committee on Correspondence beg leave to report,

First, that the resolution of the last meeting, directing the Particular Synod of New-York to draught and forward a letter in the Dutch language, together with a copy of the minutes of this Synod, to the Synod of North Holland, has not been complied with by that Reverend Body, since on the minutes of their last session, under the *lemma* of *correspondence*, it is said, *nothing occurred.*

Your Committee have received a copy of the minutes of the last meeting of the German Reformed Synod, and after inspection, they find nothing on said minutes claiming the attention of this Board. The said German Reformed Synod did appoint Delegates to attend this Body at the present meeting. Your Committee have received a friendly and affectionate letter from said Delegates, offering an apology for their non-attendance.

Your Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions :—

First, that the Particular Synod of New-York be, and they are hereby again directed, to comply with the resolution of this Synod at their meeting in June, 1818, relative to a correspondence with the Synod of North Holland.

2d. That in order to preserve that friendly intercourse with our German Brethren, which has been commenced but a few years since, the Reverend Isaac Labagh and Dr. Philip Milledoler as *primarii*, and the Rev. Christian Bork and Dr. John Bassett as *secundi*, be the Corresponding Members from this Synod to the next meeting of the Synod of the German Reformed Church, to be held at Lancaster, in the State of Pennsylvania, on the first Sunday in September next.

All which is respectfully submitted,

ISAAC LABAGH, Chairman.

ARTICLE V.

Synodical Reports on the State of the Churches.

The Committee on the State of Religion reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on the State of Religion beg leave to present the following Report to the General Synod—

That, during the last year several of our candidates have been successfully called to a pastoral charge. Mr. Brogun Hoff has been installed over the First Reformed Dutch Church, in the District of Spring Garden, Philadelphia; Mr. Walter Monteith over the United Reformed Dutch Churches of Flatlands and Flatbush; and Mr. Peter Van Zandt over the Second Reformed Dutch Church of Schenectady, and First Reformed Dutch Church of the 4th Ward of Schenectady.

The Rev. Messrs. John Duryea and Peter Stryker, of the Classis of Bergen, John F. Jackson and John H. Dreyer, of the Classis of New-York, Henry V. Wyckoff, of the Classis of Montgomery, Dr. Andrew Yates, of the Classis of Albany, and Cornelius Bogardus, of the Classis of New-Brunswick, continue without any regular settlements.

The Rev. Jeremiah Romeyn, of the Classis of Ulster, and the Rev. Peter Lowe, of the Classis of Long-Island, have departed this life. During their last moments they were the expectants of an inheritance "incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away."

Owing to a deficiency in the Reports of the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany, your Committee have not been able satisfactorily to ascertain the state of the Churches, and would therefore earnestly recommend to the several Classes under our care to be hereafter more particular on this subject.

With respect to the prospects of Zion, your Committee observe, that although there is no happiness without an interest in the righteousness of Jehovah Jesus, still it is a deplorable fact, that thousands of souls within the bounds of your jurisdiction are contented with the mere deadly cry, "What shall we eat, and what shall we drink, and wherewithal shall we be clothed ?" Among these transgressors of the divine law, many, whilst conscientiously advocating the truths of the Gospel, whilst strictly attentive upon the ordinances of the sanctuary, and whilst even partakers of the holy sacraments—by their avowed, but spurious, respect for Christianity, are vastly more instrumental in staying the progress of vital piety, than open and virulent infidels. These remarks have been suggested to your Committee by an attentive reading of the minutes of the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany. From the summary manner in which these Synods communicate information, it appears common for God's servants in the ministry to indulge in the lamentation, "Who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed ?"

Your Committee, on the other hand, have viewed all those circumstances which have a direct tendency to establish and continue soundness in the faith, to give inquirers after salvation peace of conscience, and, in a word, to accelerate that period which has so long been the subject of prophecy, when the exclamation from the rising to the setting of the natural sun shall be, "Hallelujah, the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth."

Among the circumstances which are of the utmost importance, and which require our decided approbation, your Committee enumerate,

1. The regular explanation of the Heidelbergh Catechism.

2. The large accession to several of our churches of sinners who have given encouraging and satisfactory evidences of their translation from darkness to light.

3. The increased attention which is given to family and social prayer.

4. The zeal which is manifested by the good, the wealthy, and the learned, to increase the funds of our Theological School, as well as the funds of all Bible and Missionary Institutions.

Your Committee conclude with the prayer, that God may abundantly water that vine which His own right hand hath planted, and from it may there daily be issuing branches that shall bring forth much fruit to his declarative honour.

The Statistical Tables accompany this Report.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. BRODHEAD, Chairman.

CLASSICAL REPORTS.*

PARTICULAR SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

CLASSIS OF NEW-YORK.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
					Rec'd.							
		Number of Families.	*Total of the Congregation.*	*In communion per last report.*	*On confess.*	*On certif.*	*Dismissed.*	*Suspended.*	*Died.*	*Total now in communion.*	*Adults.*	*Infants.*
New-York	Dr. G. A. Kuypers Dr. P. Milledoler Paschal N. Strong John Knox	343	1699	903	31	19	12	1	10	930	5	89
Garden-street	Jas. M. Mathews	180	950	151	28	7	1		1	184	18	70
Brooklyn	Selah S. Woodhull	152	760	132	3	6			1	140		
German Reformed	Isaac Labagh	188	564	213	1	9			6	217		51
Northwest Church	Christian Bork	231	696	541	28	11	8		8	564		90
Greenwich	Stephen N. Rowan			164		6	11	5	3			12
Bloomingdale	Dr. Alexr. Gunn			36	6	6	3		1	44		16
Haerlem	C. C. Vermeule	59			1		1	1		52		6
Tarrytown	Thos. G. Smith											
Courtlandt-town	Abraham Hoffman											

* There are manifest errors in these reports, probably typographical; they are found, as they are here printed, in the printed Minutes of the Particular Synods.

CLASSIS OF LONG-ISLAND.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certif.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Staten-Island	Peter I. Van Pelt	201	998	182	15	1	2		1	197	4	43
New Utrecht	John Beattie	93								90		15
Gravesend	M. Schoonmaker	60	488	59	2				1	60	1	15
Flatlands, Flatbush	Walter Monteith											
Bushwick	Dr. John Bassett	82	586	76	2				4	63		19
Newtown, Jamaica	J. Schoonmaker & Z. H. Kuypers	88	540	87	5				1	91		11
Success, Oyster-Bay	David S. Bogart & Z. H. Kuypers	110	670	92	13	1			1	105		25

CLASSIS OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certif.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
New-Brunswick	John Ludlow											
Raritan	J. S. Vredenburgh			160	12	12	9	1	1	173	3	52
Six Mile Run	James S. Cannon	142	852	160	15	1			1	155	5	22
Hillsborough	John L. Zabriskie	95	600		19	5	4	2	1	150	3	22
Bedminster	C. Hardenbergh	168	1150	136	4	3	2	3	2	140		29
Middletown and Freehold	Benjamin Dubois, Samuel A. Van Vranken											
Walpeck	James G. Force	212		42	2					44		33
Rockaway and Rockaway in Lebanon	Jacob I. Schultz											
Minisink and Mahakimack	Cornelius C. Eltinge	140	821	59	32	1	2		1	89	8	18
		115	764	105	16	4	5		1	119	3	30
Stillwater		77								21		
Clove												

CLASSIS OF PHILADELPHIA.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certif.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
1st Ref. Du. Ch. of Philadelphia	Dr. J. Brodhead	280		402	43	9	13	2	2	437	11	48
2d ditto ditto	David Parker	103			9	12	8		2	67		6
1st Ref. Du. Ch. in the district of Spring Garden	Brogun Hoff	50		16	8	2				26		
North Branch	Peter Studdiford	225		170	9		1			178		
Harlingen and Shannack	Wm. R. Smith / Peter Labagh	155		167	13	2	3		1	178	1	25
North and South Hampton	Jacob Larzalere	125		70						67		12

CLASSIS OF BERGEN.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certif.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Bergen	John Cornelison	164	660	141	79	7	3	1	4	220	12	52
Hackinsack	J. V. C. Romeyn	105	432	102	10				4	111		22
Schraalenburgh	J. V. C. Romeyn	153	584	168	12			2	3	180	1	20
Belleville	Staats Van Santvoord	100	605	70	6	3	1		2	79		30
E. Neighbourhood	C. T. Demarest	142	820	72	10		1	3	1	80	1	23
Pompton	Jacob T. Field	141		59	35	5	4		7	63	1	50
Pompton Plains	Ava Neal	170	1100	102	13	7	2		7	113		42
Fairfield	Ava Neal	165	950	60	11				2	69		36
Ponds	John Demarest	140	805	105	2		9		2	100		32
Stone-house Plains		116	665	50	3		1	1		50		20
Montville												
Preakness												
Newfoundland												

CLASSIS OF PARAMUS.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certif.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Hackinsack	Dr. S. Frælígh	109	897	120	24	1	5		2	138		16
Schraalenburgh		120	980	200	30	5	2	1	2	230		27
Tappan	Nicholas Lansing	160	784	203	2	1			2	204		33
New Hempstead		211	922	184	25	4	1		5	207		38
Paramus	W. Eltinge	170	1024	178		4	4		3	175		30
Totawa		150	1030	67	7	4	3		4	71		39
Aquackenunck	Peter D. Frælígh	240	1200	98	14	3			1	114		44
Hempstead	James D. Demarest	122	615	123	4	2			1	128		20
Ramapo												

PARTICULAR SYNOD OF ALBANY.

CLASSIS OF POUGHKEEPSIE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certif.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Poughkeepsie	C. C. Cuyler	300	1900	316	6	2	1	6	4	313	1	25
Hopewell	Thomas De Witt	95		115	6	1		1	3	116	1	8
NewHackensack		105		98	8				3	103		9
St. John	A. N. Kittle	83		85	5	4	2		1	91	1	12
Linlithgow		109		75	15	1	2	1	3	86	2	21
Kingston	John Gosman	208	1750	335	10	6	2		3	346		38
Greenbush and Tackhanack	H. Vedder	270		175	9					184		25
Hyde-Park	P. S. Wynkoop	63		23	12	1	1		1	35	11	10
Rhinebeck	William M'Murray											
Fishkill	C. D. Westbrook											
Redhook												

CLASSIS OF ULSTER.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certif.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Montgomery	Jesse Fonda	279	1763		33	8	1		1	305	7	74
New-Paltz	Wm. R. Bogardus	204	1228		16	4			4	77	2	53
New-Hurley	Wm. R. Bogardus	154	896		7		1		2	66		36
Shawngunck	A. D. Wilson	240	1550	117	17				1	137		55
New-Prospect	A. D. Wilson	73	439		3					47	1	15
Rochester	J. Murphy	232	1624	73	1				2	74		
Warwarsing	J. Murphy	153	1064	56	1					57		
Clove	J. Murphy	98	585	21	11					32		
Marbletown	J. H. Carle	200	1500	70	8	1	1		1	77		40
Hurley	J. H. Carle	36	272	51	2					53		5
Ashokan	J. H. Carle	63	431	62	4		1			65		25
Flatbush	P. A. Overbagh			26						95	3	42
Sangerties	H. Ostrander	200	1200	152	10	1			2	161		37
Catskill	I. N. Wyckoff	183	1147		21	2	1		4	130		16

Esopus, Neversink, Mamakotting, Bloomingdale, Middletown, Beaverdam, and Woodstock—*No Pastors—No Reports.*

CLASSIS OF MONTGOMERY.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certif.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Caughnawaga	Abraham Van Horne	200	1000	224						224		30
Florida	Winslow Paige	250		126	8		3		4	127		17
Herkimer	John P. Spinner	142		342			1	10	3	329	1	35
German-Flats	John P. Spinner	177		292			4	9	4	226		40
Westerlo	John C. Toll	60		60	5	4				69		6
Middletown	John C. Toll	64		78	7	3	2			86		10
Middleburgh	J. F. Schermerhorn	30			2	2		5		90		6
Johnstown	Albert Amerman	65						3		21		3
Mayfield	Albert Amerman	83			1	1	2	1	1	105		7

CLASSIS OF ALBANY.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certif.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Albany	J. M. Bradford, D.D.											
2d Church do	J. De Witt			185	16	3	3		3	198	1	10
Coxsackie	G. R. Livingston	220	1500	113	9		4		4	114	6	44
Boght	Robert Bronk	71	453	96	2					98		3
Washington and Gibbonville	Robert Bronk	50	332		1					28		4
Bethlehem	Samuel Kissam	105	630		1			1	5	81		15
Coeymans	Samuel Kissam	87	600		3				2			5
Schenectady	Jacob Van Vechten	426	2500	332	23	2	3	1	11	392	2	47
Helderberg	H. Van Huysen	145	800	140	8	1			1	148	1	80
Salem	H. Van Huysen	132	750	75	8					83		49
Jerusalem	H. Van Huysen	80	500	70	10		1			79		41
Niskeuna	Thomas Romeyn								3	167		33
Amity	Thomas Romeyn											
2d Ch. Schenectady, 1st Ch. 4th ward do.	P. Van Zandt, Jr.	93			11	2			4	52	2	4
Basic		94	530	25	5					30	1	5
Beaverdam												

CLASSIS OF RENSSELAER.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certif.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Greenbush	N. I. Marselus	180	1220	122	21	4		1	3	143		15
Bloominggrove	N. I. Marselus	106	634	77	13				1	89		17
Union-Village	Peter Van Beuren	140	914	106	3					109		12
Schodack	Peter Van Beuren	127	759	100	6				2	104	1	23
Claverack	John G. Gibhard	240	1673	237	17		1		4	254	3	73
Hills-Dale	Richard Sluyter	48	630	70	1			1	1	71		12
Kinderhook	Jacob Sickles				19	8		2	2	168	2	55

CLASSIS OF WASHINGTON.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Bapt.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	Rec'd. On confess.	Rec'd. On certif.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Schaghticoke	S. Ostrander	60	250	50			2			48		17
Tyashoke	S. Ostrander	60	340	50						50		
Saratoga	Philip Duryea	106		106	3	1	1		1	108	1	7
Argyle, Fort Miller	Isaiah Y. Johnston	89	537	68	18	5	1			90	8	19
Wynantskill	R. A. Westervelt											
Union-Village												
Easton												
Waterford												
Clifton-Park												

ARTICLE VI.

Synodical Appeals.

The following appeal from a decision of the Particular Synod of New-York was received from the Classis of New-York, viz:

To the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, to meet in Albany on the first Wednesday of June, 1819.

The Classis of New-York do hereby appeal from a decision of the Particular Synod of New-York, which is in the words following, viz: "Whereas it does appear to this Synod, that the pastoral connexion between the Rev. Stephen N. Rowan and his Congregation cannot be any longer maintained, consistently with the interest of Religion and the Church, it is hereby resolved, That said connexion ought to be dissolved; and the

Classis of New-York are hereby directed to take measures to effect such dissolution in a regular and constitutional manner."

From this decision the Classis appeal, and because of the following reason—

The General Synod, in 1809, passed the following act: "Resolved, That the resolution passed in General Synod of 1806, dissolving the connexion between Ministers and their Congregations, on the principle of expediency, though one of the parties be averse to such dissolution, be repealed; because unconstitutional, and of an evil tendency; calculated to foster strife in Congregations, to encourage worldly-minded professors, to excite animosities in a Church against Ministers, and repugnant to the practice of the Reformed Dutch Church in all ages."

By this act, the Classis deem themselves prohibited from dissolving the pastoral connexion between the Rev. S. N. Rowan and his Congregation, which they trust will appear from the following statements:

1. No other reason for the dissolution than that of expediency was ever laid before Classis in such way, that, in their judgment, they could act upon it; and no other reason is mentioned by Particular Synod in their resolution, directing the dissolution of the connexion. This will appear from the minutes of Particular Synod and of Classis.

2. The Classis have never had before them the consent of more than one party to the dissolution; but, on the contrary, one of the parties, viz. the Rev. Stephen N. Rowan, has uniformly, before Classis, expressed and urged his aversion and opposition to the measure. This will appear from the minutes of Classis, and the documents referred to therein, all which were submitted to Particular Synod.

The Classis add,

3. Not only has the Rev. Stephen N. Rowan thus expressed before Classis his aversion and opposition to the measure, but, as far as it appears from documents laid before Classis, a ma-

jority of members in the Church at Greenwich are earnestly desirous that Mr. Rowan should continue as their Pastor.

As the Classis deem the above recited decision of Particular Synod to be contrary to the above recited act of General Synod, said Classis do now, and hereby, lay their appeal before the General Synod; and request, that the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler and the Rev. James M. Mathews be heard as their Commissioners for the prosecution of the same, or the Rev. Dr. Alexander Gunn and the Rev. John Knox, to act in the place of the above named Commissioners, in case they should not be present.

A true extract from the Minutes of the Classis of New-York.

PASCHAL N. STRONG, *Stated Clerk.*

New-York, 19*th May*, 1819.

Resolved, That this Synod do now proceed to consider the said appeal; and that the Rev. Dr. Alexander Gunn and James M. Mathews, two of the Commissioners appointed by the Classis of New-York, be accredited, and heard upon the said appeal.

The Synod then proceeded to hear the said Commissioners, in favour of the appeal of the Classis, and to hear the only member of the Particular Synod of New-York at their last meeting, who was a member of the General Synod, in support of the decision of the Particular Synod; also to hear all the papers which were produced in relation to the case. Synod then resolved, that all those members of the Classis of New-York, and of the Particular Synod of New-York, who have already voted on the subject under consideration, be excluded from the privilege of voting on it now.

It was then moved and seconded, that Synod adopt the following resolution, viz.:

Resolved, That the appeal of the Classis of New-York, now before this Synod, be *not* sustained; and the question being taken on this resolution, it was decided in the *negative*. The votes were as follows:

Yeas—Staats Van Santvoord, Peter S. Wynkoop, Andrew N. Kittle, Jacob Sickles, Stephen Ostrander, Ralph A. Westervelt, Solomon Frælígh, Peter A. Overbagh, Henry V. Wyckoff, Sebe Brinkerhoff, Cornelius Van Vliet, Philip Pitcher, Evert Van Allen, Frederick Berenger, Jacob L. Veelie, Jonathan Meyer, and Cornelius A. Blauvelt, 17.

Nays—Samuel A. Van Vranken, Walter Monteith, John Beattie, Jacob Brodhead, Thomas De Witt, Samuel Kissam, Jesse Fonda, James Murphy, Nicholas I. Marselus, Albert Amerman, Isaiah Y. Johnston, John L. Zabriskie, James D. Demarest, John F. Schermerhorn, Jeremiah Johnson, Joseph Van Winkle, Ares Vanderbilt, Maus Schermerhorn, David Burhans, Andries Witbeck, Garrit I. Lansing, Isaac Heyer, James Schureman, and Adam Dickerson, 24.

Synod then *resolved*, that the appeal of the Classis of New-York, from the decision of the Particular Synod of New-York, *be sustained*, and that the proceedings of the Particular Synod, in the premises, *be reversed*.

A memorial was received from the Consistory of the Church of Greenwich addressed to this Synod, praying this Synod to receive and consider another memorial addressed to the Particular Synod of New-York, but which, in consequence of that body having failed to form a quorum at the time at which they were called to meet, could not be laid before that body. The said memorial contained a prayer that the subjects of the appeal of the Consistory, as recorded in the minutes of the Particular Synod of New-York at their last stated meeting, should be considered and decided on.

Resolved, That this Synod will grant the prayer of the said memorial, and proceed to consider and decide on the said appeal. *Resolved*, that Messrs. Peter H. Wendover and Abraham Labagh, be accredited as Commissioners from the Consistory of the Church of Greenwich to this Synod. The Rev. James M. Mathews, and Dr. Alexander Gunn, were accredited as Commissioners from the Classis of New-York.

Synod heard all these Commissioners in the premises, and attended to all the documents they produced, and to the minutes of the Classis of New-York in the case. It was then *Resolved*, that the parties in this case be excluded from deliberating and

voting; and that the members of Synod from the Classis of New-York, who have already voted in this case, and the Rev. Stephen N. Rowan, be considered as parties.

It was moved and seconded, that the Synod adopt the following resolution:

Resolved, That the appeal of the Consistory of Greenwich, from the decision of the Classis of New-York, in relation to the first charge made by the Rev. Mr. Rowan, against the Consistory of Greenwich, which decision is—"*Resolved, That Mr. Rowan's first charge, in the words following*, viz.: '*With the violation of a pledge given to him and the congregation, that whatever additional sum should be given by the congregation for raising his salary above* $1500 *in the year* 1816, *should be given to him to the extent of* $2500,' "IS PROVED,"—be and hereby is sustained—Which resolution was LOST, and the said appeal was *not sustained.*

The following resolution was moved and seconded:

Resolved, That the appeal of the Consistory of Greenwich, from the decision of the Classis of New-York, in relation to the second charge made by the Rev. Mr. Rowan against the Consistory of Greenwich, which decision is—"*Resolved, That his* (*Mr. Rowan's*) *second charge, being in the words following*, viz.: '*With unkindness, cruelty, and injustice, in their vote, refusing to add* $350 *to his original salary of* $1150, *for the year ending October*, 1818,' "IS PROVED,"—be and hereby is *sustained*—Which resolution was decided in the *affirmative*, and the votes were as follows:

Yeas—Samuel A. Van Vranken, Walter Monteith, Peter Labagh, Andrew N. Kittle, Jacob Sickles, Stephen Ostrander, Ralph A. Westervelt, Peter A. Overbagh, John Bassett, Henry V. Wyckoff, John L. Zabriskie, James D. Demarest, John F. Schermerhorn, Joseph Van Winkle, Sebe Brinkerhoff, Cornelius Van Vliet, Philip Pitcher, Volkert D. Oothout, Jonathan Meyer, 19.

Nays—John Beattie, Jacob Brodhead, Thomas De Witt, Samuel Kissam, Jesse Fonda, James Murphy, Isaiah Y. Johnston, Robert Bronk, Jeremiah Johnson, Ares Vanderbilt, Maus Schermerhorn, Isaac Heyer, James Schureman, Adam Dickerson, 14.

The following resolution was moved and seconded:

Resolved, That this Synod do now sustain the appeal of the Consistory of Greenwich, from a decision of the Classis of New-York, which is as follows,—"*In relation to the appeal of the Rev. Mr. Rowan from a decision of the Consistory of Greenwich, not to transmit a memorial in his favour to Classis, it was resolved by the Classis, that the said appeal be, and hereby is sustained,*"—which resolution was decided by Synod in the *affirmative.*

The following resolution was moved and seconded:

Resolved, That the appeal of the Consistory of Greenwich, from a decision of the Classis of New-York, which is as follows,—"*Resolved, that as no evidence has been produced to substantiate the charges of the Consistory against the Rev. Mr. Rowan, this Classis consider said charges unfounded; and also declare, that he has fully exonerated himself from those charges in which the onus probandi must ultimately rest upon him,*"—be NOT sustained; which resolution was decided in the *affirmative.*

ARTICLE VII.

Synodical References.

The Committee on Synodical Minutes reported, and their report was accepted, and is as follows:

The Committee on Synodical Minutes report, That they have examined the Minutes of the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany, and find nothing which claims the attention of this body, save a petition from the Classis of Albany, in which the Particular Synod of Albany concur, relative to certain contemplated regulations to be adopted by General Synod, regarding the students of our Theological Seminary: which petition we respectfully refer to the wise consideration of Synod.

JOHN BEATTIE,
STAATS VAN SANTVOORD,
SEBE BRINKERHOFF.

The above report was referred to the Committee on the Professorate.

A reference was received from the Classis of New-York, in relation to their decisions concerning the Consistory of Greenwich, and concerning several points of controversy between the said Consistory and the Rev. Mr. Rowan; in which reference, the Classis request of the General Synod advice, or a final decision on the whole of the subjects to which it relates; which was committed to a select Committee, consisting of the Rev. Jesse Fonda, Peter Labagh, and John F. Schermerhorn, and the Elders, Messrs. James Schureman, and Volkert D. Oothout.

A paper purporting to be a plea of the Consistory of Greenwich, in relation to some of the subjects of the above reference, was received, which was committed to the same Committee. *Resolved*, that the said Committee have power to send for persons and papers.

Sundry papers were handed in, and referred to the said Committee.

This Committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The special Committee to whom was referred the reference from the Classis of New-York, and other papers relating to the subjects of said reference, beg leave respectfully to report—

That after a patient, and as they trust, a candid and full examination of the matters embraced in said reference, as well as others connected with them, they find—

That General Synod has already decided that the pledge given by the Consistory of the Church of Greenwich, has been violated; and that the Consistory have failed to prove the charges made by them against their Pastor, the Rev. Mr. Rowan:—And also, that the charge of unkindness, cruelty, and injustice, preferred by the Rev. Mr. Rowan, against his Consistory, was unwarrantable; and that his conduct in taking an appeal from a decision of his Consistory, in relation to a certain memorial,

was contrary to the rules and usages of the Reformed Dutch Church.

Your Committee therefore consider it improper to interfere in the above decisions, and leave the respective parties under the disapprobation expressed in such decisions of Synod, of their conduct in the points specified.

And your Committee further report, that they have examined the other subjects stated in the reference, as well as the plea of the Consistory of Greenwich in reply: and that they deem it inexpedient to express an opinion on them, and regret that the Classis of New-York have noticed as serious evils, what in consequence of the infirmities of our nature, are almost inevitable results of such a state of things as that which has obtained in the Church of Greenwich: and your Committee here beg leave to express their further regret, that the Classis of New-York, after granting a commendable indulgence from time to time, to the Consistory of Greenwich in coming to trial, did not delay the final investigation of the matters in controversy, until the middle of March, agreeably to the request of Consistory.

To conclude, your Committee, from a review of the whole controversy, are induced to cherish a hope that reconciliation is not yet impossible; and that it would be proper in General Synod, and they beg leave to recommend it, to make a solemn and final effort to secure in this case the blessings promised to peace-makers, by appointing a Committee consisting of three Ministers and two Elders to visit the Congregation of Greenwich as soon as practicable, and by their sermons, their exhortations, and their prayers, to beseech them to be reconciled; and to exercise towards each other that forgiveness which, as professors of religion, they hope God has for Christ's sake exercised towards them: and in case said Committee should be unable to accomplish so desirable an object, they be instructed to suggest to the Classis of New-York whatever measures they may deem necessary to the prosperity of that Church, and the comfort and usefulness of the Rev. Mr. Rowan; to which suggestions the Classis of New-York are requested to

pay that respectful attention due to the agents of General Synod.

All which is respectfully submitted,

JESSE FONDA, Chairman.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Jacob Brodhead, Jesse Fonda, and Isaiah Y. Johnston, and the Elders, Messrs. Cornelius A. Blauvelt, and Peter Wyckoff, be the Committee referred to in the above report, and that they be authorized to draw on the Treasurer for their expenses.

ARTICLE VIII.

Grievances.

The Committee on Gravamina reported that nothing had come before them requiring the attention of General Synod.

ARTICLE IX.

Church Government.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE X.

Doctrines and Morals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XI.

Customs and Usages.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XII.

Schools and Christian Education.

Nothing occurred.

from that country, in which "the desolate places" are so numerous, and in which so many souls are crying, "Come over and help us." It appears to your Committee, that in consequence of the contemplated removal of the Rev. Cornelius Schermerhorn into Canada, and of the disposition which one or more ministers of the Presbyterian order have manifested to connect themselves with our Church, that a Classis might be organized in that country. With a view to this important object your Committee submit the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That it be again recommended to Mr. Abner Wright, to apply to the Classis of Albany for examination, and that the Stated Clerk of Synod inform him of the pleasure with which Synod would view him as a regular licentiate in the service of the Church.

Resolved, That the Particular Synod of Albany be directed to take the most speedy and effectual measures to organize a Classis in the Province of Upper Canada.

2. The Report of the Treasurer of the Committee of Missions. From their report it appears, that the Treasurer holds in his hands a balance of 482 dollars 83 cents. Attached to this report is a request of the Treasurer, Mr. E. Willett, not to be reappointed to that office. On this request your Committee judge it to be inexpedient for Synod to act, as Mr. Willett has received his appointment of Treasurer from the Committee of Missions, to whom alone it properly belongs to accept his resignation.

3. In relation to the ordination of Mr. Cornelius Bogardus, your Committee beg leave to state to Synod, that the Female Missionary Society of Haerlem, composed principally of members in communion with the Reformed Dutch Church, have engaged said candidate to serve as a missionary during the present summer and a portion of the ensuing autumn, in certain parts of the state of New-York, where it is probable, that he might be more useful if qualified to administer the ordinances and to organize Churches; and with a view to such greater usefulness have applied for his ordination. It is im-

possible for your Committee to regard with indifference the piety and zeal which this application discovers. They highly applaud the efforts which the Missionary Society of Haerlem are making to extend the blessings of the Gospel, and hope that their pious example will be imitated by pious females in all our congregations. With a view therefore to encourage the work of missions by societies formed in our own Church, and at the same time not to injure the Gospel ministry by precipitate ordination, your Committee recommend to Synod the adoption of the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the Classis of New-Brunswick be directed to convene as early as may be, to examine the candidate, Mr. Cornelius Bogardus, and if on such examination they shall find said candidate qualified, to ordain him to the Gospel Ministry.

4. Your Committee have also had referred to their consideration the first annual report of the United Foreign Missionary Society, exhibiting a statement of their transactions during the past year, and submitting to the decision of this Synod some alterations in the Constitution of the Society, proposed by the Board of Managers. On this subject of reference your Committee would recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Synod earnestly recommend this institution to the patronage and support of the several Judicatures and congregations under their care.

Resolved, That this Synod do approve all the amendments of the Constitution suggested by the Board of Managers, excepting the *second*, which they consider to be improper and dangerous.

5. Your Committee have examined the documents, certifying that the Rev. John Duryea has organized two Churches within the bounds of the Classis of Montgomery, and on inquiry find that these documents are intended by Mr. Duryea to support an application which he now makes for pecuniary aid. Your Committee hope, that Synod will not countenance, in future, any application for monies as a compensation for Missionary labours undertaken without the knowledge and

New-Brunswick, November 4th, 1818.

At a meeting of a Committee of General Synod, and a Committee of the Trustees of Queen's College, in order to adjust and ascertain the interest on the monies of the Professoral Fund which have not been loaned by the said Trustees to individuals on bond and mortgage, it is ascertained and agreed that the said interest money amounts to the sum of eleven hundred and seventy-two dollars and seventy-two cents, on the first day of November, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

S. S. WOODHULL,
ISAAC HEYER,
G. B. VROOM, } *Committee General Synod.*

JAS. SCHUREMAN,
STAATS VAN DEURSEN,
WM. P. DEARE, } *Committee Queen's College.*

Your Committee have since addressed a communication to the Board of Trustees of Queen's College, requesting the payment of the above-mentioned amount of interest, in order that your Committee might obey the direction of General Synod, and pay such amount into the Treasury of Synod, or invest the same in some public stock. But to this communication, your Committee have received no answer, and they respectfully suggest that the Synod now take the business into their own hands, and adopt such measures as may appear proper and necessary.

All which is submitted,

S. S. WOODHULL,
ISAAC HEYER,
G. B. VROOM.

New-York, May 29, 1819.

ARTICLE XIV.

Professorate.

A letter was received from the Rev. Thomas De Witt, informing Synod that he still declines accepting the office of

Professor of Biblical Literature and Ecclesiastical History in the Theological College.

Resolved, That this Synod do now proceed to appoint another person as Professor.

Resolved, That the Professor now to be appointed, or any Professor who may hereafter be appointed by this Synod, shall hold no Pastoral charge.

A number of candidates were then nominated for the Professorship.

On the same day the Synod proceeded by ballot to reduce that nomination to two; and on the next day, the Synod proceeded of these two to elect the Professor.

On counting the ballots, it appeared that the Rev. JOHN LUDLOW was elected Professor of Biblical Literature and Ecclesiastical History in the Theological College.

Resolved, That the Professor of Biblical Literature and Ecclesiastical History be inaugurated into his office in the Dutch Church at New-Brunswick, on the first Wednesday of September next, at 11 o'clock, A. M.: and that, in addition to the inaugural address to be delivered on that occasion by the Professor, the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler be and he hereby is appointed to preside and deliver a Sermon, and the Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford to deliver a charge to the Professor; that the Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler be appointed as *secundus* to the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, and the Rev. John De Witt as *secundus* to the Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford.

A report was received from the Committee appointed to purchase books for the Theological College, by which it appears that they have purchased books to the amount of $391 85, which are in the city of New-York, subject to the order of General Synod.

Resolved, That the said Committee be continued, and that the sum of $200 be placed at their disposal for the purchase of books for the ensuing year.

Resolved, That the said Committee transmit to New-Brunswick the books they have purchased, and may hereafter purchase.

The Committees appointed to form Cent Societies, and to solicit donations and subscriptions from Consistories and individuals to the Permanent Fund, were called on to report.

The Committee for the Classis of New-York reported, that they have deemed it inexpedient to do any thing since the last meeting of Synod, and assigned satisfactory reasons for their conduct.

From the Committees of the Classes of New-Brunswick, Paramus, and Bergen, no reports were received.

From the Committees of the Classes of Ulster and Poughkeepsie, Rensselaer, Albany, Long-Island, Montgomery, and Philadelphia, information was received that the business assigned to them had been in a greater or less measure attended to.

The Committee on the Professorate reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:—

The Committee on the Professorate report, that as the state of the Theological College is fully and justly exhibited in the minutes of this meeting of Synod, especially in the Report of the Board of Superintendants, therefore your Committee deem nothing more to be necessary for them than to recommend the adoption of the following resolutions, viz.—

Resolved, That this Synod highly approve of the plans of economy adopted by the Board of Superintendants in appropriating monies to Students; and that in order to prevent applications for aid on the part of those whose parents are able to support them, the Board of Superintendants be directed to appropriate no monies to any Student who has not a certificate from the Consistory of the Church to which he belongs—that his parents are unable or unwilling to support him; or that he has not sufficient means of support.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk be directed to furnish the Board of Superintendants with copies of the past and future minutes of General Synod, so far as practicable.

Resolved, That hereafter the annual examination of the Theological College take place on the fourth Monday in May.

Resolved, That the admission of Students into the Theological College and into the school of Professor Frælígh, be intrusted to the Professors and the Board of Superintendants, or a Committee of five to be appointed by the Board.

Resolved, That the next session of the Theological College commence on the 1st day of September, 1819, and that the Board of Superintendants be accordingly directed to meet in the city of New-Brunswick, at 5 o'clock, P. M. of that day.

Resolved, That the Board of Superintendants be authorized, if they shall deem it expedient, to demand from each of the Students annually $30 for tuition.

Resolved, That the request of Isaac Ferris for an allowance of the time spent in the Seminary of the Associate Reformed Church in New-York, and permission to finish his theological studies at New-Brunswick, be granted. And

Whereas, in the petition of the *Classis* and the *Particular Synod* of Albany there is an urgent request, that "when Students have completed their course of study, they shall return with the proper testimonials to their respective Classes for examination and licensure," and whereas the 40th article of the Explanatory Articles of the Constitution says, that "it shall be left to the discretion of any Student in Theology, to apply either to the Synod or to any Classis he may choose for examination,"—Therefore,

Resolved, That General Synod do recommend to the respective Classes, such alteration in said explanatory article as shall make it obligatory upon all Students in Theology, after they have completed their course of study, to return to their respective Classes for examination and licensure, unless liberty be obtained from the Classis to which they belong to be examined and licensed in some other Classis; and that said Classes be directed to inform the next General Synod whether they consent to the proposed alteration.

PETER LABAGH, Chairman.

Resolved, That the Committees heretofore appointed to form Cent Societies, and to solicit donations and subscriptions from Consistories and individuals to the Permanent Fund, be continued until the next stated meeting of Synod, excepting that the Rev. Nicholas Jones be no longer a member of the Committee in the Classis of Montgomery, and that the Rev. John C. Toll be appointed in his stead; that Messrs. Stephen Van Rensselaer and John I. Ostrander be added to the Committee in the Classis of Albany; that the Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge be added to the Committee in the Classes of Paramus and Bergen; and that the Rev. S. S. Woodhull and Stephen N. Rowan be excused from serving any longer on the Committee in the Classis of New-York, agreeably to their request to be so excused.

ARTICLE XV.

Students in Theology.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVI.

Church Visitation.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVII.

Prevailing Sins.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Missions.

The Rev. John F. Schermerhorn, agreeably to appointment, preached the annual Missionary Sermon before the Synod, from Matthew vi. 10. on the evening of the 5th day of the Session, when a collection was taken up for Missionary purposes.

The Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler was appointed to preach the annual Missionary Sermon at the next meeting of Synod, and the Rev. John Knox was appointed his *secundus*.

The Committee on Missions reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on Missions report from the documents submitted to their consideration, that during the past year the Rev. Mr. Allen, of the Presbyterian connexion, has been employed by the Standing Committee of Missions. The term of his engagement is not specified in their report; and although he commenced his Mission some time last summer, he has neither yet returned nor transmitted any communication whatever to his employers. Your Committee respectfully suggest the propriety of giving to the Standing Committee some definite instructions relative to the persons to be employed by them, as also relative to the term of their engagements.

From the report of the same Committee, it further appears, that the Rev. C. Bogardus has also been employed as a Missionary in the town of Sullivan, county of Madison, and its vicinity, for ten weeks. From his journal it appears that he set out on his Mission about the nineteenth of January last, and continued his labours for twelve weeks, during which period he preached fifty-five times; organized one Church in the town of Cato, distinguished by the style of *The Reformed Protestant Dutch Church of Cato;* administered the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's supper; visited families, and discharged other parochial duties. This infant Church he represents as ready to contribute to the support of the Gospel, and anxious to be furnished with its stated ministrations.

Your Committee have the satisfaction further to report, that a Missionary Society has been formed in the city and vicinity of Philadelphia, for extending the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom in the Reformed Dutch Church. This specimen of zeal for the spread of Gospel truth manifested by our brethren in that quarter merits our highest commendation. The letter communicating this pleasing intelligence is accompanied by a

copy of their Constitution, and contains a request that Synod will aid their exertions, by granting, in the *first* place, "That the collections made for Missionary purposes within the bounds of the Classis of Philadelphia may be placed at their disposal:" And in the *second* place, that for the present year one hundred dollars may be allowed them by the Standing Committee of Missions.

From the report of the Treasurer of that Committee, it appears, that he holds in his hands a balance of $159 87. To which, if the $104 50 of collection lately made is added, there will be an amount of $264 37 to be devoted to our Missionary interest.

In the journal above alluded to, Cato, the west part of Lysander, Oswego point, and Hannibal, are mentioned as places worthy of Missionary attention, but requiring speedy and vigorous exertion in order to secure the extension of our Church in that quarter. In addition to this field of labour, your Committee would direct the attention of Synod to those destitute parts of Upper Canada which were not long since visited by their Missionaries; as also to those parts of Pennsylvania to which the Rev. German Synod may be unable to devote their particular attention.

The Second Annual Report of the United Foreign Missionary Society referred to your Committee has been perused with much pleasure. In exhibiting a statement of their transactions during the past year, it opens to view immense fields ripe for harvest; interesting prospects of the Church's extension in the desolate parts of this growing empire, and with all this a Society yearly acquiring increased energies and resources to aid in accomplishing so desirable an object.

All which is respectfully submitted,

WALTER MONTEITH, Chairman.

Resolved, That the employment of a candidate not in the communion of the Dutch Church, by the Standing Committee of Missions, was unauthorized by this Synod, and in opposition

to their resolution of 1812, in relation to the employment of Missionaries.

Resolved, That the request of the Missionary Society, mentioned in the preceding report, be so far granted as that the said Society shall have at their disposal, for one year, the collections for missionary purposes made in the churches within the bounds of the Classis of Philadelphia.

Resolved, That this Synod learn, with pleasure, the cheering prospects which are opening upon the United Foreign Missionary Society, and again earnestly recommend that institution to the patronage and support of all our Judicatures and Congregations.

Resolved, That the Standing Committee of Missions be hereafter located at New-York.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Isaac Labagh, Christian Bork, and John Cornelison, and the Elders Messrs. Richard Duryea, John I. Westervelt, Timothy Hutton, and Dr. Peter Wilson, be the Standing Committee of Missions.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Synod be given to the former Standing Committee of Missions.

Resolved, That the sum of $75, from the Missionary Fund, be placed at the disposal of the Classis of Philadelphia for the ensuing year, for missionary purposes, in the city and suburbs of Philadelphia.

Resolved, That the Standing Committee of Missions be directed, if the funds will permit, to employ a Missionary within the bounds of the Classis of Montgomery.

ARTICLE XIX.

Widows' Fund.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XX.

Particularia.

The following Copy of an Act of Incorporation of the Synod was received :

An Act to incorporate the General Synod of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, passed April 7, 1819.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, That the General Synod of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church shall be, and hereby is declared to be, a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "*The General Synod of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church*," with full power to sue and be sued, defend and be defended, by that name, in all courts of law and equity; and to have a common seal, and alter the same at pleasure: and also to take, purchase, and hold real and personal estate, and to sell and convey the same, *Provided*, the yearly value of such real and personal estate shall not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars, and that the same shall not be appropriated to any other than religious and charitable uses and purposes.

And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the regular members of the said General Synod, at their stated annual meetings, to appoint a President, three Directors, and a Treasurer of the said Corporation; and to make and ordain by-laws and regulations relating to the management and disposition of their real and personal estate, the duties of the said President, Directors, and Treasurer, and the duration of their respective offices: *Provided always*, that such by-laws and regulations shall not be inconsistent with the constitution and laws of this State or of the United States.

And be it further enacted, That it shall at all times be lawful for the Legislature to repeal or amend this act.

State of New-York,
Secretary's Office.

I CERTIFY the preceding to be a true Copy of an original act of the Legislature of this State on file in this office.

ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, Dep. Sec'ry.

Albany, April 9, 1819.

Resolved, That this Synod do now proceed to attend to the business resulting from the said act of incorporation.

Resolved, That the Rev. S. S. Woodhull, and Messrs. Guisbert B. Vroom and Isaac Heyer, be a Committee to procure a seal, with a suitable device and inscription, for the use of the Corporation.

Resolved, That the Rev. Stephen N. Rowan, Thomas Dewitt, Isaiah Y. Johnston, and Walter Monteith, and the Elder Mr. Jacob L. Veelie, be a Committee to report to this Synod a nomination of three times the number of persons who shall constitute the Board of Direction, under the Charter. This Committee reported accordingly, and the Synod proceeded to ballot for a President, three Directors, and a Treasurer, of the Corporation; when Mr. Henry Rutgers was chosen President, Messrs. Isaac Heyer, Isaac L. Kip, and S. S. Woodhull, were chosen Directors, and Mr. Cornelius Heyer was chosen Treasurer of the Corporation.

Mr. Guisbert B. Vroom having declined serving any longer as Treasurer, *Resolved*, That the thanks of this Synod be presented to Mr. Vroom for his faithful services as their Treasurer.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk give notice to the persons elected as officers of the Corporation, of their appointment.

Resolved, That the Rev. Jacob Sickles, and Dr. Solomon Frælígh, and the Elders Messrs. Isaac Heyer, Jeremiah Johnson, and James Schureman, be a Committee to draft by-laws for the Board of Direction of the General Synod, and to report them during the present session.

The Stated Clerk afterward informed Synod, that Mr. Cornelius Heyer declined accepting the office of Treasurer of the General Synod, for reasons which were stated. *Resolved*, That his declinature be accepted, and that a new election be held. Synod proceeded to ballot, when Mr. John Nitchie was elected the Treasurer of the Corporation of the General Synod.

The Special Committee, to draft By-laws for the Board of the Corporation of the General Synod, reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee appointed to draft by-laws for the Board of Direction of General Synod, respectfully submit the following—

BY-LAWS.

I. The Board shall hold a stated meeting once in every month.

II. Special meetings shall be called by the President, whenever he shall deem it necessary, or by any two of the Directors.

III. A majority of the Board shall be a quorum to transact business, and in the absence of the President, they shall have the power to elect a President *pro tem.*

IV. The Board is authorized to demand and receive all monies belonging to the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church; to draw upon the Treasurer from time to time, for such money in his hands, as may be necessary to answer the appropriations made by Synod, and to apply to their specific objects the benefactions of societies, congregations, and individuals.

They shall in the most advantageous manner, invest all monies that shall come into their hands for any particular fund, and which have not been appropriated.

They shall appoint a Secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep their minutes, to correspond with the agents appointed by this Synod for the collecting of monies for the use of Synod, and with agents which have been, or may be appointed by other judicatures of the Church.

V. The Treasurer shall keep a regular and accurate account of all monies by him received and disbursed, designating the specific purposes for which they have been received or expended, and shall lay before the Board such account quarterly, or as often as they shall require it.

VI. The Board shall report annually to the General Synod, a statement of the funds, with such remarks as they may think necessary.

VII. The President, Directors, and Treasurer, shall hold their offices for one year, or until others are appointed, except in cases of mal-conduct, for which, the Treasurer, or any member of

the Board may be suspended, and reported to the General Synod, at their next meeting.

VIII. All drafts on the Treasurer, or orders of the Board, shall be signed by the President, who shall also affix the seal of the Corporation, in the presence of the Board, to such instruments of writing as may require it.

JACOB SICKLES, Chairman.

Resolved, That the Rev. Walter Monteith, and the Elder, Mr. Isaac Heyer, be a Committee, to report what appropriations will be necessary for the present year.

This Committee reported the following resolution, which was adopted by the Synod:

Resolved, That the Board of the Corporation of this Synod, be instructed to pay all monies which are due, or which may become due, agreeably to engagements made by this Synod, to any person or persons; the Board first auditing the accounts.

The Committee appointed to perform certain duties as to the removal of the remains of the late Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten to New-Brunswick, and in relation to the erection of tombstones, with suitable inscriptions, over his remains, and the remains of the late Professor, the Rev. Dr. Schureman, reported, that they had performed the duties of their appointment. *Resolved*, That the expenses incurred by them be paid by the Treasurer.

The following report was received from the Committee appointed in June last, to attend to the Lands belonging to the General Synod, viz:

General Synod, at the Session held in the City of New-York in June 1818, appointed the subscribers a Committee to cause the deeds of the lands of the General Synod to be recorded; to pay all taxes which were due, or might become due, prior to the then next meeting of Synod; and to inquire how those lands may be made most productive of advantage to the funds of the Church:

The Committee now beg leave to report,

That they have caused the deeds which were delivered to the Committee to be recorded in the Secretary's office of this State, not deeming it necessary that they should be recorded in the counties in which the lands conveyed are situated. That the situation of those lands, and the recording of the deeds, may appear on the Minutes of Synod, in the event of any accident happening to the deeds, the Committee present a short abstract of the several conveyances:

1. A Deed from Marinus Willett, and Margaret his wife, to the Trustees of Queen's College, in New-Jersey, bearing date 30th March, 1808, conveying Lot No. 13, containing one hundred acres; being part of a tract of eleven thousand and sixty-seven acres granted to Pliny Moore, and situate in the county of Essex.

2. A Deed from Rensselaer Westerlo and Jane his wife, Abraham Hun and Maria his wife, John Woodworth and Catharine his wife, to the same, bearing date 21st day of May, 1811, conveying Lot No. 107, containing one hundred and thirty-eight acres and eighty-three hundredths of an acre. Lot No. 108, containing one hundred and eighty-three acres and eight-tenths of an acre. Lots No. 115 and 116, containing together two hundred and ninety-nine acres and forty-two hundredths of an acre; these lots being parts of township No. 50, in Totten and Crossfield's purchase—the township situated partly in the county of Montgomery, and partly in the county of Essex.

3. A Deed from Philip S. Van Rensselaer and Ann his wife, to the same, bearing date 18th day of June, 1811, conveying a certain piece of land, situate in the county of Franklin, being the undivided half of Lot No. 89, in township No. 8, the whole lot containing six hundred and forty acres.

The Committee know of no method by which these lands can be rendered productive of advantage to the funds of the Church, other than by disposing of them at public or private sale, or by leasing them in perpetuity or for a long term. From the low price of lands generally, at present, and other causes, it is pro-

bable that a sacrifice would be made, and comparatively a small sum only could be realized, by a sale at auction. If Synod should deem that step inexpedient, it would, in that case, in the opinion of the Committee, be adviseable to put these lands in the charge of some person, with power to sell or lease them, on certain specified terms, whenever opportunities for doing either might occur. The taxes have been paid up to the present time, as will appear by the receipts of the Treasurer and Comptroller. The expenses, for taxes and recording, will appear by the account accompanying this report.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN VAN SCHAICK,
J. I. OSTRANDER.

Albany, June 2, 1819.

From the account referred to in the preceding report, it appeared that Mr. John I. Ostrander had paid, for taxes and recording the deeds, the sum of $10 43½. Ordered, that this account be paid.

The communication of the Rev. Mr. Van Bunschooten, made to General Synod in 1814, was read.

Resolved, That the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany be requested to cause that at least six copies of their Minutes, from year to year, be laid on the table of the General Synod, at every stated meeting.

The Committee, in relation to translating a part and printing the whole of the old Minutes of General Synod, reported, That the Committee have not yet been able to accomplish the business. *Resolved*, That the Rev. Drs. John Bassett and Gerardus A. Kuypers be added to this Committee.

The Stated Clerk informed Synod that his expenses, since the meeting of Synod in June last, will amount to $38 50, at the close of the present session, deducting the amount received for four copies of Minutes of Synod sold by him; which sum was ordered to be paid.

The Door-keeper's bill, amounting to $11, and Websters & Skinners' bill for stationary, amounting to $3 44, were ordered to be paid.

ARTICLE XXI.

Questorate.

The following reports were received, viz:

The Treasurer of General Synod respectfully reports, That there is a balance in his hands, as will appear from the annexed account, of $1646 12

That there is in his possession, belonging to the Permanent Fund,

In obligations of individuals, received from the agents appointed to obtain subscriptions in the Classis of New-York	$5440	
Stock of the State of New-York . . .	1900	
Do. of the City of New-York . . .	700	
		$8040
And also, of stock of the State of New-York, distinct from that belonging to the Permanent Fund		1150

G. B. VROOM, Treasurer.

New-York, May 28, 1819.

The General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in Account with G. B. Vroom, Treasurer.

1818		DR.	Dlls.	C.
July	2	To cash paid for $1550 of 6 per cent. stock of the State of New-York, (at 1¾ per cent. advance) bearing interest from the 1st inst.	1577	13
		,, ,, paid for an account-book for the Treasury Board	1	25
Aug.	21	,, ,, paid Rev. S. S. Woodhull, in full of his expenses as Permanent Clerk, to June last (by order of Synod.)	57	
	24	,, ,, paid Rev. Dr. Bradford, a balance due him on expenses of printing the Minutes of 1817.	118	50
		,, ,, paid to the Standing Committee of Missions, it being a balance received from the late Questor of Synod, belonging to the Missionary fund.	77	29
	27	,, ,, paid to the Rev. Dr. Livingston, in full of his salary to June last.	605	45
Sept.	15	,, ,, paid for $1500 of 6 per cent. stock of the State of New-York, (at 2¾ per cent. advance) bearing interest from the 1st of July last.	1541	25
Oct.	7	,, ,, paid to James Schureman, Esq. the arrears of salary due to the Rev. Dr. John Schureman, deceased.	800	
	22	,, ,, paid to the Rev. Dr. Livingston, in full of his salary to the 1st of Sept. last, (including a payment made by Mr. Van Deursen, of $165 34.)	272	16
Nov.	4	,, ,, paid to the Rev. John Ludlow, for indigent Students, by order of the Board of Superintendants.	500	
	11	,, ,, paid to the Rev. Peter Labagh, for expenses incurred by himself and Rev. Mr. Schultz, in attending the German Synod.	31	
Dec	4	,, ,, paid to Mr. Abraham Paul, for printing the Minutes of General Synod, of June and August, 1818.	172	86
1819 Feb.	2	,, ,, paid the Rev. Dr. Livingston, in full for his salary to 1st December last.	437	50
April	13	,, ,, paid for discount on uncurrent notes.		63
May	5	,, ,, paid do. do.		50
		,, ,, paid postage of letters.		38
	18	,, ,, paid to the Rev. Dr. Livingston, in full for his salary to the 1st of March last	437	50
	27	,, ,, paid in full of a draft of the Board of Superintendants, for the use of indigent Students.	825	
	28	,, ,, paid in full of an order of the Committee of General Synod, to purchase books for the library.	353	25
		Balance to new account.	1646	12
			9454	77
1818		CR.		
June	5	By balance of Ordinary account, rendered this day	1366	47
		,, do. Special account ,,	1148	09
		,, do. Permanent fund account ,,	558	73
	6	,, cash received from the Church in Amity, by Rev. Thomas Romeyn	5	
		,, ,, from Rev. John De Witt, collected in the Classis of Albany, in the year 1815	11	
	9	,, ,, from the congregation of Middleburgh, by the Rev. John F. Schermerhorn	23	
	15	,, ,, from Miss Sarah Beekman, Secretary of the Theological School Society of Kingston, N. Y.	21	
		,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of Kingston, by Miss Sarah Beekman	35	
			3168	29

Account.—Continued.

1818				Dlls.	C.
		By amount brought forward		3168	29
June	30	„ cash from Isaac L. Kip, Esq. an Agent of the Consistory of the Church of New-York, for granting licenses to print the Psalm-book, on account of money due from George Forman		187	31
		„ „ from Mr. John H. Sickels, late Questor, being balances of money in his hands as reported to the General Synod— Balance of Delegate fund	$64 75		
		„ Missionary fund . . .	77 29	142	04
July	1	„ „ being the balance of the principal of State stock, (65 per cent)	$910		
		„ „ for a quarter's interest on do. . . .	15 93	925	93
		„ „ from Mr. Jacob I. Blauvelt, a collection for Missionary purposes, in the Church of Tappan		5	
	16	„ „ a donation from Gerard Beekman, Esq. of New-York, by Rev. Dr. Milledoler; (one half for indigent Students, and the other for Professors)		100	
Aug.	4	„ „ a quarter's interest on $700 of Corporation stock . .		10	50
		„ „ from the Bergen Town Female Cent Society, by Elizabeth Gautier, 1st Directress, Helen D. Gautier, Secretary, and Maria M. Cornelison, Treasurer . . .	$67 50		
		Deduct a counterfeit note of . . .	3	64	50
		„ „ from the Female Cent Society of Six Mile Run, N. J. by Miss Dinah Voorhees, and Miss Catharine Ann Stryker.		35	
		„ „ from the Juvenile Cent Society of Bergen, N. J. by G. De Witt, President, and J. H. Zabriskie, Secretary .		20	
		„ „ from Rev. John Cornelison, collected in the Church of Bergen, for Missionary and contingent purposes . .		15	25
	7	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of New Hackinsack, by the Rev. Tho. De Witt		13	18
		„ „ from the Female Cent Society of Hopewell, by Tho. De Witt.		15	50
		„ „ from the Male Cent Society of " do. by do. .		10	50
	21	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of Brooklyn .	$193 30		
		(Deduct a Wilmington note, much depreciated, still on hand)	5	188	30
		„ „ from Rev. S. S. Woodhull, collected in the Church of Brooklyn		15	
		„ „ from Rev. S. S. Woodhull, collected in do. for Missionary purposes		30	
	24	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of Paramus, by Mrs. Polly Zabriskie, Treasurer		14	
	25	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of Bedminster, by Rev. Charles Hardenbergh		21	37
		„ „ from the Female Cent Society of Schaghticoke, by Alida Van Vechten, Treasurer, (for indigent Students) .		13	
Sept.	2	„ „ from Rev. N. I. Marselus, for collections in the Churches of Greenbush and Blooming-grove		16	
		„ „ from Isaac L. Kip, Esq. Agent of the Consistory of the Church of New-York, for granting licenses to print the Psalm-book, on account of money due from Mr. George Forman		189	42
		„ „ from Rev. Mr. Field, collected in the Church of Pompton, for Missionary and contingent purposes . . .		6	59
		„ „ from the same, for the Professorate		6	
				5212	68

Account.—Continued.

1818			Dlls.	C.
		By amount brought forward	5212	68
Sept.	8	„ cash from Rev. John H. Carle, collected in the Church of Marbletown	4	88
	10	„ „ from Rev. Mr. Zabriskie, Questor of the Classis of New-Brunswick, collected in the congregation of Hillsborough.	13	56
		„ „ from the same, payments for the Contingent fund . .	8	75
		„ „ from the same, for Minutes of the General Synod . .	9	86
	23	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of the 1st Reformed Dutch Church in Philadelphia, by Miss Elizabeth Baker, Treasurer	102	
	24	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of Bloomingdale, by Mrs. Elizabeth Hopper, Treasurer	111	25
Oct.	2	„ „ from the Church at Clarkstown, by Mr. Abraham P. Blauvelt;—For the Missionary fund . . . $7 46 For the Contingent fund . . . 1 25	8	71
	5	„ „ received for a quarter's interest on State stock . .	45	75
	12	„ „ from Miss Smith of Schaghticoke, for the Cent Society of ————, by Rev. Dr. Bradford . $14 Deduct a counterfeit note of 3	11	
	13	„ „ from the Cent Society of Greenwich, by Miss Judith Labagh	90	
	20	„ „ from Rev. James D. Demarest, collected in the united congregations of Hampsted and Ramapo, for Missionary and contingent purposes	12	13
	22	„ „ from the Cent Society of the North Dutch Church at Schraalenburgh, by Mr. John Quackenbush, Treasurer .	24	67
	30	„ „ from Isaac L. Kip, Esq. agent of the Consistory of the Church of New-York, for granting licenses to print the Psalm-book, in full of money due from Mr. George Forman .	191	63
Nov.	2	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of the congregation at Red-Hook, by the Rev. A. N. Kittle	23	
		„ „ from the Female Cent Society of the congregation of Linlithgow, by the same	19	12
		„ „ from the Male and Female Cent Society of the Church of Rhinebeck, by the Rev. Mr. M'Murray . . .	28	
	7	„ „ for a quarter's interest on Corporation stock . . .	10	50
	9	„ „ from the Poughkeepsie Cent Society, by the Rev. S. S. Woodhull	23	
		„ „ from the Poughkeepsie Female Cent Society, by the same	24	
	11	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of Harlingen, by Miss Mary Skillman, Treasurer	15	75
	16	„ „ from the Rev. J. I. Christie, a collection in the congregation of Warwick	10	19
	17	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of Kinderhook, by Mrs. Catharine Van Dyck, Secretary	50	
	27	„ „ from the Rev. J. Van Vechten, collected in the Church of Schenectady, for Missionary and contingent purposes	17	20
Dec.	4	„ „ from the Cent Society of the Church of Caatsbaan, by Mr. Andrew Brink	17	20
	5	„ „ from the Rev. Mr. Demarest, Treasurer of the Classis of Bergen—for Contingent Fund . . . . $15 00 for Minutes of 1818 . . . . 16 50	31	50
	14	„ „ from the Female Cent Society of the Church at Hillsdale, Mrs. Elizabeth Stever, Treasurer, for Indigent Students	10	
		„ „ from the Female Cent Society of New-Brunswick, by C. Voorhees, Treasurer	40	
			6166	38

Account.—Continued.

			Dlls.	C.
1819		By amount brought forward	6166	38
Dec.	17	,, cash from the Theological School Society of Kingston, by Miss Sarah Beekman, Secretary	23	
		,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of Kingston, by the same	17	
	18	,, ,, from the Rev. Dr. Bradford, the amount of a collection in the North Dutch Church, Albany	67	81
	23	,, ,, from the Rev. Stephen Goetschius, collected for Missionary purposes, in the Churches of Saddle-river and Peskeck	8	77
		,, ,, from the Young Men's Cent Society of the Church at Six-mile Run, N. J. by Mr. John G. Voorhees, Treasurer	35	
1819 Jan.	4	,, ,, for a quarter's interest on State stock	45	75
	16	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of the Reformed Dutch Church in New-York, by Mrs. Eliza Everson, Secretary, for the Permanent Fund	340	85
	21	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of the Church in Garden-street, New-York, by Mrs. M. E. Nitchie, Treasurer, for the Permanent Fund	89	25
		,, ,, from the Male and Female Cent Society of Hyde Park, Dutchess county, by Mr. James Rogers, for Indigent Students	21	76
	22	,, ,, from the Rev. David S. Bogart, collected in the Church at Cow-Neck	8	54
Feb.	1	,, ,, from the Bergen-Town Female Cent Society, by the Rev. John Cornelison	56	
	2	,, ,, from the New-Brunswick Society in aid of the Theological College, by Mr. Peter Spader, Treasurer . . .	30	
	3	,, ,, from the Rev. Mr. Frælich, collected in the Churches of Hackinsack and Schraalenburgh, for Missionary and contingent purposes	19	60
	16	,, ,, from the Rev. David Parker, Questor of the Classis of Philadelphia—for the Minutes of the General Synod for the year 1817	5	50
		,, ,, from the same—for the Minutes of the year 1818 . .	5	
		,, ,, from the same—a collection of the Church of Harlingen, for Missionary and contingent purposes for 1818 . .	22	60
		,, ,, from the Cent Society of the Second Reformed Dutch Church in Philadelphia, by the Rev. Mr. Parker . . .	34	52
	17	,, ,, for a quarter's interest on Corporation stock . . .	10	50
March	1	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of Brooklyn, by the Rev. S. S. Woodhull	35	68
	9	,, ,, from the Cent Society of the Church at Totowa (near Paterson) by Mrs. Catharine Van Houten	28	
	15	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of the Church of Tyoshoke, by Nelly Pruyn, Treasurer, for the Permanent Fund .	12	
	16	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of the Church at Bedminster, by the Rev. Mr. Hardenbergh	17	75
	27	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of the First Reformed Dutch Church in Philadelphia, Elizabeth Baker, Treasurer, by the Rev. Dr. Brodhead	100	
April	3	,, ,, from the Church at Haerlem, by Mr. James Bogert, Jun. Treasurer, a collection for Missionary and contingent purposes	15	34
		,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of Haerlem, by Mr. James Bogert, Jun. Treasurer	43	
	6	,, ,, for a quarter's interest on State stock	45	75
			7305	35

Account.—Continued.

1819				Dlls.	C.
		By amount brought forward		7305	35
April	13	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of the Northwest Dutch Church, N. Y. by Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, Treas.	$282 65		
		Deduct a counterfeit note of . . .	1 00		
				281	65
	17	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of the Reformed Dutch Church at New-Brunswick, by Miss Cornelia Voorhees, Treasurer		35	
	26	,, ,, from the Rev. S. S. Woodhull, Questor of the Classis of New-York,—for the Minutes of General Synod for the year 1817	$12 50		
		,, ,, from do. do. for the Minutes of 1818 . .	31 00		
				43	50
		,, ,, from the Northwest Dutch Church, a collection for Missionary and contingent purposes		6	56
	27	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society at Hurley, by the Rev. John H. Carle to Dr. Milledoler		5	50
	28	,, ,, from the Rev. Mr. Demarest, collected in the Church of the English Neighbourhood, for Missionary and contingent purposes		16	
	30	,, ,, from the Cent Society in the congregation of Schraalenburgh, by the Rev. James V. C. Romeyn		24	24
		,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of the Church at Schaghticoke, by the Rev. S. Ostrander, for Indigent Students		16	
May	4	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of New-Shannack, Miss Ann Hall, Treasurer, by the Rev. Peter Labagh . .		14	55
		,, ,, from the Juvenile Cent Society at Harlingen, Miss Mary Skillman, Treasurer, by the same		13	
		,, ,, from the Rev. Peter Labagh, it being the annual subscription of the congregation of Harlingen for the Permanent Fund		50	
		,, ,, from the Female Cent Society at Millstone, Mrs. Beekman, Treasurer, by the Rev. Mr. Zabriskie . . .		20	
	5	,, ,, from the Rev. Robert Bronk, a contribution of a Cent Society in one of his congregations		13	
		,, ,, from the same, being amount of a public collection taken up in his other congregation		6	
	6	,, ,, from the Rev. Mr. Schoonmaker, collected in the Church at Jamaica (L. I.)		22	57
	10	,, ,, for a quarter's interest on Corporation stock . . .		10	50
	12	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of Hopewell, by Mrs. Ann R. Swartwout, Treasurer		29	23
	15	,, ,, from Rev. Messrs. S. S. Woodhull and S. N. Rowan, agents of General Synod, for interest to the 1st of August last, on $5200 of subscriptions to the Permanent Fund . .		364	
		,, ,, from the Rev. S. S. Woodhull, collected in the Church at Brooklyn, for Missionary and contingent purposes .		31	
	24	,, ,, from the Reformed Dutch Church in New-York, by Isaac L. Kip, Esq. Treasurer, an annual donation for the Permanent Fund		350	
	25	,, ,, from the Female Cent Society of New Hackensack, by Mr. Jacobus I. Swartwout		20	28
		,, ,, from the Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, Treasurer of the Classis of Paramus—			
		For Minutes of Synod had prior to the year 1818	$15 75		
		,, amount of a collection in the Church of Tappan	5 50		
		,, do. in the Church at Clarkstown .	4		
				25	25
				3703	18

Account.—Continued.

1819			Dlls.	C.
		By amount brought forward	8703	18
May	25	„ „ from the Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge, for one year's dividend (from 1817 to 1818) on Bergen turnpike stock, presented by him to General Synod	15	
		„ „ from the same gentleman, collected in the following Churches, for Missionary and contingent purposes— The Church of Paramus . . . . $5 00 The Church of Totowa 5 00	10	
	26	„ „ from the Cent Society of the Second Reformed Dutch Church in Albany, by the Rev. John De Witt . .	109	
		„ „ from a class of Catechumens in the said Church, by the same gentleman	11	51
	27	„ „ from the Reformed Dutch Church in Garden-street, by John Suydam, Treasurer, an annual donation for the Permanent Fund	200	
		„ „ from the Cent Society of New-Shannack, Miss Ann Hall, Treasurer, by the Rev. S. S. Woodhull . . .	14	
		„ „ from the Consistory of New-Shannack, on account of their subscription to the Permanent Fund, by the Rev. S. S. Woodhull	30	75
	28	„ „ from the Rev. S. N. Rowan, agent, &c., for interest to the 1st inst., on an obligation for $550, included in the amount formerly reported as Permanent Fund . . .	51	33
		„ „ from the Rev. S. N. Rowan, in part payment of the principal of said obligation	310	
			9454	77
1819 May	28	By balance due General Synod	1646	12

ERRORS EXCEPTED.

G. B. VROOM.

The Treasury Board respectfully submit to the General Synod the following report.

The Board had their first meeting shortly after their appointment, and have since met on the first Wednesday of every month. They have then regularly received the Treasurer's reports, and endeavoured to the best of their ability to accomplish the ends of their appointment. Their minutes and their book of accounts are now forwarded by their Chairman, and will be presented to the Synod, if the Synod wish to examine them.

It has been made the duty of the Board "to keep a register of all the Congregations and Cent Societies, noting opposite to each the amount annually forwarded to the Treasurer;" and

"to exhibit to General Synod, at every ordinary Session, a detailed statement of their accounts."

The Board have therefore caused to be prepared, and now present to the Synod, the following

Register of all the Congregations and Cent Societies, from which monies have been received by the Treasurer of General Synod from June 5, 1818, to May 28, 1819.

		Total amount.
ALBANY, NORTH CHURCH, a collection, received December 18, 1818,	$ 67 81	
		$ 67 81
ALBANY, SECOND REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH Cent Society, received May 26, 1819,	109 00	
,, A Class of Catechumens, received May 26, 1819, ...	11 51	
		120 51
AMITY, a collection, received June 6, 1818,	5 00	
		5 00
BEDMINSTER, Female Cent Society, received August 25, 1818,	21 37	
,, ,, ,, ,, March 16, 1819,	17 75	
		39 12
BERGEN, Female Cent Society, received August 4, 1818, ...	64 50	
,, ,, ,, ,, February 1, 1819,	56 00	
,, Juvenile Cent Society, August 4, 1818,	20 00	
,, A collection, received August 4, 1818,	15 25	
		155 75
BLOOMINGDALE, Female Cent Society, received September 24, 1818, ...	111 25	
		111 25
BOGHT AND WASHINGTON, a Cent Society, received May 5, 1819, ...	13 00	
,, ,, ,, a collection, . .	6 00	
		19 00
Carried over, . .		$ 518 44

Brought forward, . . .		$ 518 44
BROOKLYN, Female Cent Society, received August 21, 1818, ...	188 30	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, March 1, 1819,	35 68	
,, a collection, ,, August 21, 1818,	15 00	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	30 00	
,, ,, ,, ,, May 15, 1819,	31 00	
		299 98
CAATSBAAN, Cent Society, received December 4, 1818, ...	17 20	
		17 20
CLARKSTOWN, a collection, received October 2, 1818, ...	7 46	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	1 25	
,, ,, ,, ,, May 25, 1819,	4 00	
		12 71
COW NECK, L. I. a collection, received January 22, 1819, ...	8 54	
		8 54
ENGLISH NEIGHBOURHOOD, a collection, received April 23, 1819, ...	16 00	
		16 00
GARDEN-STREET CHURCH, NEW-YORK, Female Cent Society, received January 21, 1819,	89 25	
,, ,, ,, annual donation of the Consistory, received May 27, 1819, .	200 00	
		289 25
GREENBUSH AND BLOOMINGGROVE, a collection, received September 2, 1818, . .	16 00	
		16 00
GREENWICH, Female Cent Society, received October 13, 1818, ...	90 00	
		90 00
HACKINSACK AND SCHRAALENBURGH, a collection received February 3, 1819, . . .	19 60	
		19 60
Carried over, . .		$ 1287 72

Brought forward, . . .		$ 1287 72
HAERLEM, Cent Society, received April 3, 1819,	43 00	
,, a collection, ,, ,, ,, ,,	15 34	
		58 34
HAMPSTED, AND RAMAPAUGH, collections, received October 20, 1818, . . .	12 18	
		12 18
HARLINGEN, Female Cent Society, received November 11, 1818, . , . .	15 75	
,, a collection, received February 16, 1819, ...	22 60	
,, Juvenile Cent Society, received May 4, 1819, ...	13 00	
,, annual subscription of the Consistory, received May 4, 1819, . .	50 00	
		101 35
HILLSBOROUGH, a collection, received September 10, 1818, ...	13 56	
		13 56
HILLSDALE, Female Cent Society, received December 14, 1818, ...	10 00	
		10 00
HOPEWELL, Female Cent Society, received August 7, 1818, ...	15 50	
Male, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	10 50	
,, Female, ,, ,, ,, May 12, 1819,	29 23	
		55 23
HURLEY, Female Cent Society, received April 27, 1819, ...	5 50	
		5 50
HYDE PARK, Male and Female Cent Society, received January 21, 1819, . . .	21 76	
		21 76
JAMAICA, a collection, received May 6, 1819,	22 57	
		22 57
KINDERHOOK, Female Cent Society, received November 17, 1818, ...	50 00	
		50 00
Carried over, . .		$ 1638 21

Brought forward, . . .		$ 1638 21
KINGSTON, Theological School Society, (a donation) received June 15, 1818, . .	21 00	
,, ,, ,, received December 17, 1818, ...	23 00	
,, Female Cent Society, received June 15, 1818, ...	35 00	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, Dec. 17, 1818,	17 00	
		96 00
LINLITHGOW, Female Cent Society, received November 2, 1818, ...	19 12	
		19 12
MARBLETOWN, a collection, received September 8, 1818, ...	4 88	
		4 88
MIDDLEBURGH, a collection, received June 9, 1818, ...	23 00	
		23 00
MILLSTONE, Female Cent Society, received May 4, 1819, ...	20 00	
		20 00
NEW BRUNSWICK, Female Cent Society, received December 14, 1818, . . .	40 00	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, April 17, 1819,	35 00	
,, ,, "New Brunswick Society," February 2, 1819, ...	30 00	
		105 00
NEW HACKINSACK, Female Cent Society, received August 7, 1818, ...	13 18	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, May 25, 1819,	20 28	
		33 46
NEW SHANNACK, Cent Society, received May 4, 1819, ...	14 55	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 27, 1819,	14 00	
,, ,, subscription of the Consistory, received May 27, 1819, . . , .	30 75	
		59 30
Carried over, . .		$ 1998 97

Brought forward, . . .		$ 1998 97
NEW-YORK, Female Cent Society, received January 16, 1819, ...	340 85	
,, annual donation of the Consistory, received May 24, 1819 , ...	350 00	
		690 85
NORTHWEST CHURCH, NEW-YORK, Female Cent Society, received April 13, 1819, . .	281 65	
,, ,, ,, a collection, received April 20, 1819, ...	6 56	
		288 21
PARAMUS, Female Cent Society, received August 24, 1818, ...	14 00	
,, a collection, received May 25, 1819,	5 00	
		19 00
PHILADELPHIA FIRST REF. DUTCH CHURCH, Female Cent Society, received Sept. 23, 1818,	102 00	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, March 27, 1819,	100 00	
		202 00
PHILADELPHIA, SECOND REF. DUTCH CHURCH, Cent Society, received February 16, 1819,	34 52	
		34 52
POMPTON, a collection, received Sept. 2, 1818,	6 59	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,	6 00	
		12 59
POUGHKEEPSIE, Cent Society, received November 9, 1818, ...	23 00	
,, Female Cent Society, received November 9, 1818, ...	24 00	
		47 00
RED HOOK, Female Cent Society, received November 2, 1818, ...	23 00	
		23 00
RHINEBECK, Male and Female Cent Society, received November 2, 1818, ...	28 00	
		28 00
Carried over, . .		$ 3344 14

Brought forward, . . .		$ 3344 14
SADDLE RIVER AND PASKECK, a collection, received December 23, 1818, . . .	8 77	
		8 77
SCHAGHTICOKE, Female Cent Society, received August 25, 1818, ...	13 00	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, October 12, 1818,	11 00	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, April 30, 1819,	16 00	
		40 00
SCHENECTADY, a collection, received November 27, 1818, ...	17 20	
		17 20
SCHRAALENBURGH, Cent Society, received October 22, 1818, ...	24 67	
,, ,, ,, ,, April 30, 1819,	24 24	
		48 91
SIX MILE RUN, Female Cent Society, received August 4, 1818, ...	35 00	
,, ,, ,, Young Men's Cent Society, received December 23, 1818, . . .	35 00	
		70 00
TAPPAN, a collection, received July 10, 1818,	5 00	
,, ,, ,, ,, May 25, 1819,	5 50	
		10 50
TOTOWA, Cent Society, received March 9, 1819,	28 00	
,, a collection, received May 25, 1819,	5 00	
		33 00
TYOSHOKE, Female Cent Society, received March 15, 1819, ...	12 00	
		12 00
WARWICK, a collection, received Nov. 16, 1818,	10 19	
		10 19
Total amount		$ 3,594 71

Besides the preparation of the preceding Register, it was made the duty of the Treasury Board " to exhibit to General

Synod a detailed statement of their accounts." As the report of the Treasurer is or will be before Synod, the Board consider the following exhibit to be sufficiently in detail, respectfully referring the Synod for further particulars to the Report of the Treasurer.

The Professorate account was credited by the Board with the balance on the Treasurer's special account, as on the minutes in June last, of	$ 1148 09	
Also with $1097 63 part of the balance on the ordinary account, . . .	1097 63	
Also with monies received at different times to the amount of	1074 52	
		3320 24
And the said account is charged with payments to professors, amounting to	2552 61	
With the cost of $2500—six per cent stock of the state of New-York, . .	2558 75	
		5111 36
But to the above credits is to be added $1350, that amount of the stock having been transferred from this account to the Permanent Fund, so that the credits altogether are		4670 24
And thus there is a balance against the Professorate account of		441 12
The Indigent Students' account has been credited with $86 57 a part of the balance on the Treasurer's ordinary account in June last, ...	86 57	
With monies received at different times to the amount of	726 2½	
		812 59½
And the said account has been charged with payments to the amount of		1325 00

So that there is a balance against the Indigent Students' account of		512 40½
The Library Account has been credited with $182 27 a part of the balance on the Treasurer's ordinary account in June last	182 27	
with monies received at different times, to the amount of	35 62½	
		217 89½
The said account has been charged with a payment to the amount of		353 25
And thus it appears that there is a balance against the Library account of		135 35½
The Contingent Fund has been credited with monies received at different times to the amount of		272 2
And the said Fund has been charged with payments to the amount of		382 12
So that there is a balance against the Contingent Fund account to the amount of . . .		110 10
The Permanent Fund has been credited with the balance in the hands of the Treasurer, as stated in his report in June last,	558 73	
with monies received at different times, to the amount of	1382 85	
		1941 58
And the said Fund has been charged with the cost of $1900 of six per cent stock of the state of New-York, ...	1909 63	
And there is a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of	31 95	
		1941 58

For "the use of the General Synod in aid of the Theological College," there have been received monies to the amount of . .		2675 76
And this account is chargeable with the balances against the Professorate account, the Indigent Students' account, and the Library account.		
The Treasurer has received since his last report, monies to the amount of .	6381 48	
To which are to be added the balances on his several accounts as per his report in June last, ...	3073 29	
		9454 77
And he has paid	7808 65	
Leaving in his hands a balance of . .	1646 12	
		9454 77
It may be proper for the Board to add, that there have been received on the Missionary Fund		214 68
That there has been paid to the Treasurer of the Standing Committee of Missions the sum of	77 29	
And that there is a balance in the Treasury of Synod, in favour of the Missionary Fund to the amount of	137 39	
		214 68

All which is respectfully submitted,

S. S. WOODHULL,
ISAAC HEYER,
ISAAC L. KIP, } *Treasury Board.*

New-York, May 29, 1819.

The Stated Clerk and the Treasurer, who were appointed a Committee "to prepare and present to the General Synod, at every meeting, a digest of the debts and credits, and probable receipts and expenditures of the General Synod, together with such suggestions as may be deemed expedient by said Committee, in relation to the pecuniary concerns of our Church,"—respectfully submit the following report.

I. AS TO THE VAN BUNSCHOOTEN FUND.

The amount actually received on this fund, as stated in our last report, was	$13090 31	
There have since been discharged two bonds of $1000 each (paid in anticipation) . . . . . , ...	2000 00	
		$15090 31
The amount yet to be received, payable in future years without interest, is		3840 00
The amount actually at interest, at 7 per cent. was	$12750 00	
To this, add the amount since received, which, it is to be supposed, will be put out at interest without delay . .	2000 00	
		14750 00
And the annual interest on such sum would be		1032 50
There had been received for interest on this fund, up to the 17th inst. . .	$ 869 75	
And there was then due for interest on this fund	1366 75	
		2236 50

The Treasurer of Queen's College states, however, that to the above amount of interest there will be a charge for a rebate on bonds paid in

anticipation	$ 515 57	
For commissions, discount on uncurrent money received, (some counterfeit) and expenses incident to the settlement with the executors of the Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten	568 85	
		1084 42

Leaving a present balance (were the interest all collected) of . . . . . $ 1152 08 to be disposed of according to the stipulations of the Reverend Donor.

Your Committee respectfully suggest, that Synod do now earnestly urge the immediate collection of the interest due on this fund, and the prompt collection of it in future; and also, that Synod recommend some persons, who are in indigent circumstances, to receive aid from this fund.

II. AS TO THE PROFESSORAL FUND.

The interest annually received on this fund ought to amount to		$826 88
viz. on $9600, loaned to individuals at 7 per cent	$672 00	
on $2212 57, in the hands of the Trustees,	154 88	
		$826 88

From June 1st, 1818, to May 17th, 1819, there has been paid to your Professor only $440 09, from this fund; so that the arrears of interest on this fund are about $1200, *including* the arrears due at the time of our last report, then estimated to amount to about $1000, and *excluding* the arrears due from the Trustees, on the part of the principal, which has not been loaned. The Synod will perceive, by another report, that the arrears of interest, due from the Trustees on such part of the principal, amounted to $1172 72 on the first day of November

last; and the amount has of course increased since, seven months having elapsed. So that all the arrears of interest on this fund are about $2400.

Your Committee respectfully suggest to Synod the propriety of adopting such measures as shall secure to them the benefit of the proceeds of this fund as they become due, and the prompt payment of the arrears.

III. INDIGENT STUDENTS.

The number of these has increased during the past year, and consequently the sum required for their aid has exceeded our estimate. We have adopted the amount of the actual expenditure for them, from June 1st, 1818, to June 1st, 1819, as the estimate of what will be necessary for them, from June 1st, 1919, to June 1st, 1820—viz. $1325.

IV. THE PERMANENT FUND.

The amount of this stock is,		
In stock of the State of New-York at 6 per cent.	$1900 00	
Corporation of the city of New-York, at 6 per cent.	700 00	
In individual obligations, at 7 per cent.	5440 00	
Balance in the hands of the Treasurer	31 95	
Amounting to	———	$8071 95
And its annual product will be about		536 00

V. THE PROCEEDS FROM PRINTING THE CONSTITUTION.

Agreeably to the order of Synod, the Treasurer has called on the Printer for the amount now due from him, supposed to be $25; but the money has not yet been received.

VI. COLLECTIONS IN THE CHURCHES.

During the past year, there has been received from this source about the sum of $200, excluding the collections for the

Missionary and Contingent Funds. We have estimated the receipts from this source at the same amount, from June 1st, 1819, to June 1st, 1820.

VII. CENT SOCIETIES.

The receipts from these, during the past year, will appear from other reports. As they have fallen short of the estimate of your Committee, it may be proper to state, that their estimate was nineteen per cent. *less* than the aggregate of what was represented to them, by the different agents, to be the *minimum* which might be expected. We think it may be safe to estimate the receipts from Cent Societies, from June 1st, 1819, to June 1st, 1820, at 2000. It should, however, be remembered, that some of these Cent Societies have hitherto made their payments *to the Permanent Fund.*

VIII. STOCK HELD BY THE TREASURER.

All the stock which did not belong to the Permanent Fund, which was held at the time of the last report, has been paid off. But there is other stock, which has been purchased on the Professorate account, by order of the Treasury Board, to the amount of $1150; and the interest will be $69 during the year, should it not become necessary to dispose of said stock and use the money.

IX. THE SUBSCRIPTIONS MADE IN 1815.

All these will be due in August next. No monies have been received from this source since our last report. But they ought to be collected; and probably at least $1000 could be realized from them. They are already appropriated to the Permanent Fund.

Your Committee suggest, that Synod adopt measures to have these monies collected without delay after the month of August next.

X. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS OF CONGREGATIONS.

Besides those mentioned in our last report, the Consistory of the Church in Garden-street, New-York, have agreed to pay $200 per annum, for five years, to be added to the Permanent Fund, and the first payment has already been made.

XI. THE MINUTES OF SYNOD.

Your Committee estimated the arrears of Classes for printed minutes at $100, at the time of their last report. Since that period, $182 90 ought to have been paid by the Classes for the Minutes of June and August last. But only $96 11 have been received since June 1st, 1818; so that it may be justly estimated that $185 are still due.

Your Committee suggest, that Synod take measures to obtain the payment of the arrears without delay, and to insure prompt payment in future.

XII. THE CONTINGENT FUND.

On this fund have been received $272 02, and paid $382 12 since June 1st, 1818. This fund is chargeable with a debt to the Missionary Fund of $410 28. It will appear that collections, in aid of it, have been received from only seventeen Congregations during the past year.

Your Committee respectfully suggest, that Synod enjoin on all the ministers and Consistories a careful attention to the annual collection, ordered by Synod, for missionary and contingent purposes.

XIII. THE DONATION OF THE REV. WILHELMUS ELTINGE.

Since the last report, one year's dividend has been paid on the stock of which this donation consists, amounting to $15.

XIV. BALANCES OF CASH.

There are the following balances in the hands of the Treasurer, viz:

On the Permanent Fund account . . .	$ 31 95	
Do. Missionary Do. . . .	137 39	
Applicable to other purposes	1476 78	
		$1646 12

as will be seen from the accounts and report of the Treasury Board.

XV. LEGACY OF THE LATE MISS REBECCA KNOX.

Her bequest was of $2000, to be placed in the hands of the Trustees of Queen's College, and for the use of Indigent Students. This legacy has not been paid; but your Committee are informed, that the sum of $360, for interest, is now ready to be paid to any person duly authorized to receive the same.

Your Committee suggest, that this Synod request the Board of Trustees of Queen's College to appoint some person or persons to attend to their interests in this business.

XVI. THE LIBRARY.

The Committee for this object have purchased books to the amount of $391 85, for which they have given drafts on the Treasury. Only $353 25 have been paid; the draft for the remainder having not yet been presented for payment.

In addition to the preceding particulars, your Committee respectfully suggest:

That as the execution of the plans of Synod, for forming Cent Societies, and obtaining subscriptions and donations, has hitherto met with a very limited success, therefore Synod endeavour to procure one or more persons, of activity, zeal,

and perseverance, who should be instructed to spend a number of months, of the present year, as the agents of Synod. Other Churches have adopted such a method of executing similar plans with those heretofore adopted by the Synod, and they have met with far greater succcess. If this suggestion be adopted, the pulpits of such agent or agents should be supplied, their expenses paid, and a suitable compensation given them.

That, as Synod is now incorporated, and will appoint a Board under their Charter, the duty of preparing an Annual Digest be assigned to that Board, and the resolution repealed which assigns it to the Stated Clerk and the Treasurer.

It remains to add the following *Recapitulation.*

I. DEBTS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD.

1. To the Missionary Fund, as stated in the last report	$410 28	
Balance in the Treasurer's hands	137 39	
		$547 67
2. To the Rev. Dr. Livingston, which will be in full to June 1st, 1819		162 75
3. „ „ „ James S. Cannon, as temporary Instructer in the Theological College		300 00
4. To Mr. John S. Mabon, as temporary Instructer in the Theological College		125 00
5. Balance unpaid on the amount of purchases for the Library		38 60
		$1174 02

II. CREDITS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD.

1. Amount unpaid by the Classes for Minutes, estimated at		$ 185 00
2. Amount of interest from the Trustees of Queen's College, (see the second head of this report)	$1172 72	
Add interest on $2212 57, from November 1, 1818 to June 1st, 1819, seven months, at 7 per cent. .	84 50	
		1257 22
3. Amount of cash in the hands of the Treasurer		1646 12
4. Amount of arrears on the bonds given for the Professoral Fund		1200 00
5. Amount of balance on the interest of the Van Bunschooten Fund, to the 17th May, 1819, (See the first head of this report)		1152 03
6. Legacy of Miss Knox		2000 00
7. Interest on this legacy, ready to be paid		360 00
8. Amount due from the Printer of the Constitution		25 00

III. FUNDS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD.

1. Professoral Fund, invested $9600; in the hands of the Trustees of Queen's College $2212 57	$11812 57
2. Van Bunschooten Fund, received $15090 31 : to be received, $3840	18930 31
3. Permanent Fund, invested $8040; balance in the Treasury, $31 95	8071 95
4. Stock, not Permanent Fund	1150 00

IV. ESTIMATE OF EXPENSES FROM JUNE 1ST, 1819, TO JUNE 1ST, 1820.

1. Payment of debts, as mentioned under the first head of this recapitulation	$1174 02
2. Salaries of two Professors for the year	3300 00
3. For Indigent Students	1325 00
4. For the Library	250 00
5. For contingent expenses, including deficiency of last year	350 00

V. ESTIMATE OF THE AMOUNT OF MONIES THAT SHOULD BE RECEIVED, FROM JUNE 1ST, 1819, TO JUNE 1ST, 1820.

1. On the Van Bunschooten Fund, one year's interest, about	$1032 50
" " " " " arrears of interest, about	1150 00
2. On the Professoral Fund, one year's interest . .	826 88
" " " " arrears on the bonds given for a part of this Fund, about	1200 00
" " " " interest due from the Trustees of Queen's College	1257 22
3. On the Permanent Fund, one year's interest . .	536 00
4. On the stock, not Permanent Fund, one year's interest	69 00
5. One year's dividend on ten shares of Bergen Turnpike Stock	15 00
6. From Cent Societies, about	2000 00
7 From subscriptions of 1815, appropriated to the Permanent Fund, about	1000 00
8. Arrears of Classes for printed Minutes, about	180 00
9. The annual subscriptions of Congregations or Consistories, about	630 00

10.	From collections for the Contingent Fund, about	250 00
11.	From other collections in the Churches, about	200 00
12.	Interest on the Legacy of Miss Knox	360 00
13.	From the Printer of the Constitution	25 00
14.	From Classes, for Minutes of the year 1819 . .	140 00

To this estimate your Committee would add, that the *actual* receipts will probably fall far short of the amount that *should be* received. New and more successful exertions would, of course, increase the means of Synod; but, at present, the *actual* receipts, from June 1st, 1819, to June 1st, 1820, may not be estimated at much, if any, more than,

For the Permanent Fund, ...	$1400 00
For current expenditure	4500 00
To this add the balance in the Treasury,	1646 12
	$7546 12

All which is respectfully submitted,

S. S. WOODHULL, Stated Clerk.
G. B. VROOM, Treasurer.

New-York, May 29, 1819.

The said report of a digest, was referred to the Rev. John Knox, Stephen N. Rowan, and Jacob Van Vechten, as a special Committee.

This Committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows, viz.:

The Committee to whom were referred the digest prepared by the Stated Clerk and Treasurer of Synod, and the report of the Committee of conference with the Trustees of Queen's College, respectfully report,

That upon the inspection of the papers committed to them, they find, 1. That there is a balance of $25 due Synod, on the proceeds from printing the Constitution.

2. That the monies subscribed in 1815, and appropriated to the permanent fund, will become due in August next.

3. That there is a balance due for printed minutes of Synod, of $185.

4. That respecting the Van Bunschooten fund, they find charged a rebate of $515 57, on bonds paid in *anticipation;* and $568 85, for *commissions*, *discount on uncurrent money*, (some counterfeit) and expenses incident to the settlement with the executors of the Rev. E. Van Bunschooten.

5. That upon the part of the Professoral fund which has been loaned, there is due from the Trustees of Queen's College, about $1200 interest, and upon that part of the same fund which has not been loaned, there are arrearages of interest due, amounting to above $1172.

All these points your Committee believe demand the attention of Synod.

Your Committee would therefore recommend the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the Corporation of Synod be directed to *collect* the money due from the Printer of the Constitution, and that due for printed minutes of Synod.

2. *Resolved*, That the agents to whom the subscriptions of 1815 were made payable, or who have obtained subscriptions under the order of Synod, be, and hereby are directed to collect the monies that shall become due on those subscriptions, as soon as possible, and pay them over to the Treasurer of the Corporation.

3. *Resolved*, That the Corporation of the Synod be requested to take measures for ascertaining the precise nature of the deductions from the Van Bunschooten fund, of $1084 42, as charged by the Trustees of Queen's College.

4. Whereas, in the opinion of your Committee, the arrearages due upon the Professoral fund, both on account of monies

loaned and not loaned, have been accumulating from time to time, whilst Synod were obliged to meet drafts upon this fund from other resources; and therefore Synod are entitled to be refunded so much of what has been so advanced, as shall equal the value of those arrearages due the Professoral fund—

Therefore *Resolved*, That the Corporation of Synod be directed forthwith to effect a settlement; to collect the amount due upon the above principles, and invest the same in some public stocks; or that if the Trustees are not in funds to repay those monies, the Corporation take their bond for the same.

Lastly, Your Committee recommend, that the duty of preparing an annual digest, hereafter devolve upon the Corporation of Synod, and that the Treasurer and Stated Clerk be released therefrom.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN KNOX, Chairman.

Whereas there has been manifested on various occasions, a difference of opinion, in relation to funds and other property in the hands of the Trustees of Queen's College, applicable to the support of the Theological College, located at New-Brunswick, under the superintendance of the General Synod, therefore *Resolved*, as an amicable measure, and calculated to prevent future collisions and difficulties, that the Board of the Corporation of this Synod be instructed, and the Board of Trustees of Queen's College be requested, to enter into an examination of the whole subject, and that the Board of the Corporation report to this Synod at their next meeting.

ARTICLE XXII.

Pastoral Letter.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Synodical Archives.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Resumption and Close.

The minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk publish one thousand copies of the Minutes of this Synod, duly authenticated; that he distribute among the Classes the number of copies directed by them; and that he be authorized to offer the surplus copies for sale to any individuals desirous of purchasing them, for twenty-five cents each; giving notice that they are thus for sale in the public papers of New-York and Albany.

ARTICLE XXV.

Adjournment.

Synod adjourned, to meet in the city of New-York on the first Wednesday of June, 1820, at 10, A. M.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *President.*
JACOB BRODHEAD, *Adsessor.*
STEPHEN N. ROWAN, } *Clerks, pro*
JOHN KNOX, } *tempore.*

Official copy from the Original Minutes.

SELAH S. WOODHULL, *Stated Clerk.*

THE

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH,

IN

NORTH AMERICA,

AT

NEW-YORK, JUNE, 1820.

NEW-YORK:
PRINTED BY GEORGE FORMAN, 201 FULTON-STREET.
1820.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, convened in the City of New-York, on Wednesday, the seventh day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty. The Session continued from the seventh day of June to the fifteenth day of June, inclusive.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Opening of the Synod.

The Synod was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, the President of the last General Synod.

A Sermon was preached in the evening of the first day of the Session, by the Rev. C. D. Westbrook, from Isa. 62. 1.

ARTICLE II.

Members present.

FROM THE PARTICULAR SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

1. *From the Classis of New-York.*

Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Cornelius C. Vermeule, and Paschal N. Strong.*

* The *primarius*, Rev. C. Bork, took his seat on the first day of the Session.

ARTICLE III.

Moderators.

Rev. Dr. James S. Cannon was chosen President.

Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler was chosen Asessor.

Rev. Samuel A. Van Vrankin and John Gosman were chosen Clerks.

A communication was received from the Stated Clerk, resigning his office.

Resolved, That his resignation be accepted, and that the thanks of the Synod be presented to Mr. *Woodhull* for his services.

Resolved, That the Rev. *John Knox* be, and he is hereby appointed, *Stated Clerk.*

ACTS OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Orders and Rules.

These were read.

ARTICLE II.

Standing Committees.

The following Committees were appointed :

Committee on the Professorate.—Rev. Dr. Solomon Frælich, Jacob Schoonmaker, P. I. Van Pelt, Stephen Ostrander, Brogan Hoff, and the Elders, Messrs. E. Van Gelder and P. Voorhees.

Committee on Synodical Minutes.—Rev. C. Bork, J. S. Vredenburgh, and the Elder Mr. C. Miller.

Committee on Correspondence.—Rev. D. Parker, J. Cornelison, R. Sluyter, and the Elders, G. W. Mentz and G. Van Riper.

Committee on Missions.—Rev. Dr. Yates, W. Eltinge, J. H. Carle, J. Cornelison, and the Elder, A. Van Dyke.

Committee on the state of Religion.—Rev. Dr. P. Milledoler, P. Duryee, J. Van Vechten, J. T. Chrystie, and the Elder, E. Ein.

Committee on Gravamina.—Rev. J. V. C. Romeyn, J. Schoonmaker, J. H. Carle, S. Ostrander, and the Elder, C. Van Deusen.

Committee of Overtures.—Rev. C. C. Ver Meule, J. Sickles, D. Parker, and the Elder, Abraham Child.

ARTICLE III.

Communications.

The Rev. Dr. Helfenstein laid upon the table of Synod the minutes of the German Reformed Synod, which were referred to the Committee on Correspondence.

Communications were received from the Consistory of the Church of Poughkeepsie, the Consistory of the Church of Rochester, and the Church of the English Neighbourhood, recommending Richard D. Van Kleek, Robert Loomis, and Asa Bennett, as proper persons to be assisted from the Van Bunschoten fund, which were referred to the Committee on the Professorate.

Application was made by Abraham Frost, to be admitted to an examination for lincensure, which was also referred to the Committee on the Professorate.

A communication was received from the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, containing a resolution of that body, designating the Rev. Dr. Mason, Rev. R. B. E. M'Leod, and the Rev. Dr. Alexander Proudfit, and the Elders, Silas E. Weir, and Peter M'Cartee, Esqrs. as Commissioners to confer with such Committee as may be appointed by this Synod, on the subject of effecting a union between the two bodies, which was referred to a special Committee, consisting of Rev. C. C. Cuyler, D. S. Bogart, C. D. Westbrook, and the Elders D. Vangelder, and James Oliver.

A communication was received from Mr. Z. Lewis, Re-

cording Secretary of the United Foreign Missionary Society, requesting the approbation of Synod to the following alteration in the constitution of the United Foreign Missionary Society—" In article 3d, strike out the words *Corresponding Secretary*, and insert the words, *a Secretary for Foreign Correspondence, a Secretary for Domestic Correspondence.*"

Resolved, That Synod do concur in said alteration.

The Standing Committee of Missions made the following report, which was referred to the Committee on Missions:

The Committee of Missions of General Synod report—

That they held their first meeting, and were organized on the 23d July, 1819.

As no books, nor other documents belonging to the former Committee of Missions, had been forwarded, they took immediate steps to procure them, but did not succeed till the month of October following; in consequence of which their operations for that period were entirely suspended.

On examining into the state of the Missionary fund when those documents were obtained, it appeared, that there was

lodged in the Bank of Albany - - -	$410 63
In the hands of the Treasurer of General Synod	137 39
And that a loan had been made to General Synod of	410 30
Making in all, the sum of - - - - -	$958 30

Of that sum there has been paid to the Treasurer of the Committee - - - - -	$548 2
The remaining sum of - - - - -	410 28

taken on loan by the General Synod, has not yet been refunded.

On the small amount placed at the disposal of your Committee, there were two orders:

The first in favour of the Rev. Isaiah Y. Johnson, payable by a resolution of General Synod of June, 1818, for $50. The second in favour of the Classis of Philadelphia, payable by a resolution of General Synod at their last sessions, for $75. These orders have been duly honoured.

Finding from the scanty funds placed at their disposal, that their efforts for the year must be exceedingly limited, they appointed a Sub-committee to examine the Minutes of General Synod from the first appointment of a Committee of Missions.

That Committee was directed to inquire what resolutions had been passed by General Synod for raising funds for Missionary purposes; to ascertain from their Minutes, and other accessible sources of information, how far such resolutions had been complied with; and to determine whether any, and if any, what general plan could be devised for improving their finances.

From their report it appeared, that General Synod had from time to time passed resolutions, enjoining it upon all their congregations to take up collections for the Missionary fund. They were apprehensive, however, that those resolutions had in numerous instances not been complied with. In the past year the orders of General Synod have been complied with, so far as is officially known to your Committee, in only one single instance.

To call the attention of the Churches to this subject, a Circular was addressed last autumn to one of the Ministers of each Classis, requesting to be informed of the number, names, and situation of places within the bounds of such Classis to which Missionaries should be sent; what Missionary stations might be occupied with the greatest prospects of usefulness; the number of Missionaries that ought to be employed, and for what time; whether the injunction of General Synod ordering collections for Missionary purposes, had been complied with, and if so, to what extent; whether they could suggest means for increasing Missionary zeal; and, finally, whether it would be practicable and expedient to institute Female Cent Societies.

The gentlemen thus addressed, were requested to confer with their Brethren on these points; and to transmit an answer to the Committee as soon as possible.

To these inquiries, answers have been received from Minis-

ters of the Classes of Philadelphia, New-Brunswick, Bergen, Paramus, Ulster, Albany, and Washington.

Some of these are very interesting, pointing out Missionary ground, and urging the Committee, by various and most important considerations, promptly and vigorously to prosecute their work; but none of them have stated the annual amount collected in their respective congregations.

Whilst your Committee were thus endeavouring to obtain Missionary funds, they were also careful to ascertain the most promising fields for Missionary labour. In addition to Upper Canada, and the bounds of the Classis of Montgomery, recommended by Synod, and to which, for want of funds as well as of Missionaries, they have hitherto not been able to attend, the following places have been earnestly recommended to their notice, namely: such parts of Pennsylvania as cannot be supplied by the German Reformed Synod; Milford, in Pike county, Pennsylvania; Spostswood, situated within the bounds of the Classis of New-Brunswick; Stillwater, in Sussex county, New-Jersey; Harsimus and Hoboken, in New-Jersey, opposite the city of New-York; Upper Neversink and Middletown, within the bounds of the Classis of Ulster; Caldwell, Warrensburgh, Johnsburgh, and Athol, in the county of Washington, New-York; and, finally, the environs of the city of New-York itself.

The inhabitants of many of those places are, from various causes, attached to the Dutch Church; are anxious for Missionary help, and are willing, so far as their means will extend, to aid the Missionary cause.

In some of these places, considerable sums can be raised annually, in part payment of Missionaries; and there is a fair prospect, at no very distant period, of erecting Churches, and organizing respectable congregations.

Your Committee having been informed that a Missionary would be acceptable and useful at Spotswood, New-Jersey; and having found on inquiry a large body of people there, who were destitute of the stated ministrations of the Gospel, employed Mr. I. A. Van Hook, a Licentiate of the Dutch Church, to preach to them for three months. Having at the close of

that time received encouragement to continue his labours, he was employed for another term of three months; and your Committee have the pleasure to state, that the attention of the people has been called to the means of grace, and that the corner stone of a New Dutch Church, 45 feet by 60, was laid by Professor Livingston, accompanied by Professor Ludlow, on Wednesday, the 3d of last May.

They have also resolved to employ Mr. Isaac Fisher, a Licentiate of the Classis of New-Brunswick, to preach in the suburbs of this city for three months, for the purpose of making an attempt to collect a congregation; and a Sub-committee has been appointed to provide a place or places for his ministrations.

Whilst other denominations have laboured with indefatigable industry for the extension of their bounds, our Church has done nothing, or next to nothing, for the advancement of her particular interests.

The efforts of the Committee of Missions have been paralyzed for years together, for the want of pecuniary means; and if something effectual is not done to strengthen their hands, the cause of Missions will continue to languish, and the most promising situations for new Churches will soon be wrested from us for ever.

Your Committee consider its operations, on a large scale, as immediately and intimately blended not only with the preservation and extension of the truth of God upon earth, but also with the future, and perhaps vital, interests of our Theological Seminary. If one young man on leaving that Seminary can be taken by the hand, employed by this Committee, and intelligently directed to proper spheres of action, it will have no small tendency, when connected with other considerations, to attract Students to your School. It will give an able and faithful ministry to newly formed Churches; and will be calculated to excite both in Pastors and people, an affectionate attachment to your Churches and Seminary, followed by their most cordial support.

Your Committee have been informed, that money has been collected for Missionary purposes, and detained by Classes for

their own Missionary use. General Synod will perceive, that if this principle be recognised, it will create no small confusion in projecting and executing Missionary plans; and that if carried to any considerable extent, it must and will deprive the Church of the advantage of well concerted and energetic Missionary movements, and effectually destroy the whole object of Synod in the appointment of a Board of Missions. Application has been made during the past year, in favour of congregations labouring under pecuniary embarrassments.—They were represented as in danger of being deprived of the stated ministrations of the word, and of perhaps changing their Ecclesiastical relation.

Unable to meet other, and as they conceived, more pressing calls for assistance—apprehensive of the consequences of such a precedent—and believing that the power given them by General Synod did not extend to such a case, your Committee declined acting upon it. They would beg leave, however, to refer to Synod the principle involved in this application, and will offer a resolution at the close of this report, that may lead to a final decision on the subject.

If General Synod will take prompt and vigorous measures, at this time, to increase the Missionary fund, much may be done in the coming year; and when your Committee consider the extensive regions on our frontier which are destitute of the means of grace—the rapidity with which new settlements are forming—the cries of the destitute for help—the young men annually issuing from our Theological Institution—and the almost unprecedented facility with which, at this period, they may extend the truth, increase their strength, and serve their Saviour, they are anxious that something may be done, proportioned to the exigency of the case, the prospects before them, and that shall be worthy of this Synod.

To elicit the views of Synod on this subject, your Committee propose to them, with much deference, the following plan and resolutions:

1st. That all the Classes within our bounds be constituted Auxiliaries to General Synod, in the cause of domestic Missions.

2d. That, as such, they be empowered and directed to take prompt and effectual measures to promote missionary efforts.

3d. That they be directed to request their Ministers and Consistories to call the people, over whom they preside, with renewed zeal, to the great duty of evangelizing the world; and especially of supplying the famishing inhabitants of our frontier settlements with the bread of life.

4th. That they be enjoined, as soon as possible after the rising of General Synod, to appoint judicious, active, and zealous men, to pass through their respective congregations, to solicit and take up subscriptions for missionary purposes—to institute, and to receive the avails of Cent Societies—to present their subscription lists to their Consistories, and to pay over into their hands all moneys which they shall have received—that such moneys be paid by the Consistories to the Questors of Classes, and be by them transmitted forthwith to Mr. John I. Westervelt of New-York, Treasurer of the Committee of Missions.

5th. That the Classes be directed to notice delinquent congregations, and to make an annual report of all their missionary proceedings, including the annual collections, to the Standing Committee of Missions, in such time, that said Committee may be enabled in their report to Synod, to present a complete view of all our missionary transactions for the past year.

6th. That the Committee of Missions be directed to report to General Synod, the sums annually received from each congregation, together with the names of the persons by whom they were collected, and that the same be published in the minutes of General Synod, for the information of the Churches.

With the above plan your Committee connect the following resolutions:

1st. That a Special Committee be appointed to draft a Pastoral Letter to the Churches, under the care of this Synod, to awaken their zeal in the missionary cause.

2d. That the Committee of Missions be authorised to exercise a discretionary power, in assisting congregations, already supplied with the Gospel, in cases of extraordinary emergency.

3d. That it be recommended to such Classes as may have money in their hands, raised for missionary purposes, to transmit the same, as soon as may be practicable, to the Treasurer of the Committee of Missions.

4th. That the Trustees of General Synod be directed to refund the sum, taken by General Synod on loan from this Committee; and that no moneys, raised for missionary purposes, be appropriated in future, excepting in the extraordinary case, contemplated in the second resolution, to any other use whatsoever.

5th. That the choice of missionary stations be henceforth left to the discretion of the Committee of Missions.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Signed, by order of the Committee,

PH. MILLEDOLER, *President.*

New-York, May 29, 1820.

A communication was received on the subject of Missions, from the Rev. Abner Wright, which was referred to the Standing Committee of Missions.

Communications from several Classes, consenting to such a change of the Constitution, as to require Students of Theology, after they have completed their course of study, to return to their respective Classis for examination and licensure, unless liberty be obtained from the Classis to which they belong, to be examined and licensed in some other Classis; which were referred to the Committee on the Professorate.

The Board of Superintendents brought in the following Report, which was referred to the Committee on the Professorate:

The Board of Superintendents, in obedience to the order

of General Synod, present to that reverend body the following, as their Annual Report :

In compliance with the resolution of Synod, passed at their meeting in June last, the Board met in the city of New-Brunswick, on the first day of September, A. D. 1819, that being the time appointed by the Synod for opening the Theological School : and they take the liberty of expressing to Synod the gratification which they felt on finding the Seminary under their superintending care, again furnished with an additional Professor ; the Rev. Mr. Ludlow having been installed in his office, agreeably to the order of Synod. That the Great Head of the Church may strengthen him, still further qualify him for the duties of his office, and make him a lasting blessing to the Institution over which he presides, is the sincere prayer of the Board.

The School was not opened on the first day of September last, as was ordered by the Synod. The junior Professor informed the Board, that, in consequence of his late appointment to his office, he had not been able to make such preparations as he conceived were necessary for a profitable discharge of the duties assigned him ; and submitted to the Board the propriety of delaying the commencement of the session until the 1st of November. Such delay the Board did not feel at liberty to authorise ; nor did they, in their official capacity, authorise it, although they felt constrained, as individuals, to assent to its propriety. Still they believed that, under existing circumstances, and with the assurance that the indulgence was asked, and expected, for the time being only, the Synod would not hesitate to give to the course pursued, their approbation.

The intimation having gone abroad, that the School would not be opened as early as contemplated by the Synod, the consequence was, that at the time when the Board met, no applications, except in three instances, were made for admission, which rendered it necessary for the Board to hold an adjourned meeting on the first day of November, which they accordingly resolved to do. On the day appointed, no Board appeared ; no arrangements, or appropriations respecting the School, were made : the whole care thereof consequently devolved

on the Professors ; and the Board are happy to state, that its concerns have been so managed by them, that no serious inconvenience has been experienced during the session.

On the 22d of May, 1820, the Board held their annual meeting, for the purpose of superintending the examination of the Students in the College. The following is a list of those Students who were examined, viz.—Eli Baldwin, Jared Dewing, Isaac Fisher, Gabriel Ludlow, John Van Lieuw, Abraham I. Swits, Paul Wiedman, Isaac Ferris, *of the first class :* Maurice W. Dwight, Jacob Bruyn Ten Eyck, Isaac S. Ketchum, Peter P. Rouse, Joseph Wilson, *of the second class :* John M'Clure, Richard V. Dey, Herman B. Stryker, John Van Derveer, Richard Wynkoop, Benjamin C. Taylor, *of the third class.* Mr. Seymour Vonk, of the first class, and Mr. Samuel Van Vechten, who had attended a great part of the session, were, from unavoidable circumstances, not present at the examination.

As the gentlemen of the third class had been informally admitted into the Seminary, they were, on producing the proper testimonials of their church membership, and of their classical attainments, accredited by the Board as members of the School.

In attending to the examination of the Students, the Board were well satisfied with the proficiency which they had made in the various branches to which they had attended ; and it is with pleasure they state to Synod, that the specimens exhibited to them, evinced both the ability and faithfulness of the Professors, and the diligence of the Students.

The above named young gentlemen of the first class, having completed their course of study, were recommended for professoral certificates.

Appropriations have been made for the relief of indigent Students to the amount of $661.16½, in the following proportions, viz.—To one Student who has a family, $200 ; to another, $82.12½ ; to another, $81.79 ; to another, $132.25 ; to another, $95 ; and to another, $70. Applications were made in behalf of two other young gentlemen, for one, the sum of $100, and for the other the amount of his board, annually ; to

which the Board have pledged themselves to attend whenever they shall have been received into the College.

The Board respectfully suggest to Synod—

1st. The propriety of making it the duty of the Board and Professors, to require of applicants for admission into the Theological College, who do not produce a diploma, testimonials of such attainments as would entitle them to such diploma.

2d. To enjoin it on the Board of the Corporation of Synod, to collect all moneys due from persons who have received, or may receive, aid from the Theological funds, and who have connected, or hereafter may connect themselves with other denominations, within the time specified in the order of Synod.

There are at present two vacancies in the Board, occasioned by the election of the Rev. Mr. Ludlow to the Professoral office, and the resignation of the Rev. Stephen N. Rowan, who has connected himself with another denomination.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *President.*

Theological Hall, May 24th, 1820.

A communication from Mr. John Nitchie, Treasurer of the Board of Corporation, declining a re-election to that office, was received, which was referred to the Committee on the Report of the Board of Corporation.

A report of the "American Society for colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States," was laid on the table of Synod; and the Rev. J. S. Vredenburgh, J. Cornelison, Dr. P. Milledoler, and the Elder, Mr. J. Oliver, were appointed a Committee to draft a resolution expressive of the sense of this Synod in relation to the object of "the American Colonization Society;" who made the following report, which was adopted:

The Committee appointed to draft a resolution expressive of the sense of this Synod in relation to the object of the American Colonization Society, submit the following:

The objects and plans of the American Society for colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States, appear-

ing to the Synod to be benevolent in their design, and, if properly supported, and judiciously executed, calculated to be extensively useful to this country, to Africa, and to the cause of humanity—

The Synod, therefore, freely express their approbation of the objects contemplated, and recommend the American Society for colonizing the Free People of Colour of the United States, to the patronage and attention of the Churches under their care, and to benevolent individuals throughout the United States.

Humbly submitted,
JOHN S. VREDENBURGH, *Chairman.*

The following communication was received:

To the Rev. the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church.

We the undersigned, members of the Classis of Montgomery, beg leave to represent to your reverend body, that we feel aggrieved by the proceedings of the late extra meeting of the Particular Synod at Albany, in relation to the case of Conrad Ten Eick, which was brought before them by an appeal from the decision of the Classis of Montgomery, in October last. The Particular Synod reversed that decision, and most decidedly determined that the doctrine which Mr. Ten Eick holds is contrary to the word of God, and the standards of our Church. They have ordered the Classis to labour with Mr. Ten Eick to convince him of his errors, and if he remains obstinate, then to cut him off from his congregations. Now we are at a loss to determine how this is to be effected by the Classis. They are, as they now stand, a divided body; the majority holding that Mr. Ten Eick is not essentially wrong, and that his doctrine is not of that ruinous tendency that it ought to separate a Minister from his people, or disturb the harmony of those who have been acknowledged as brethren. This is their declared sentiment, and thus they have introduced a blending system into our Church; and not only so, but in addition to this, they have spread the pernicious poison in their own congregations and their vicinity; we mean the prin-

ciples contained in Mr. Ten Eick's defence, which they have openly extolled, and held up to the public as pure and sound doctrine, and have thus been the means of doing much harm, in strengthening the hands of the enemy, and confusing those that are weak and not established in the faith. We, as members of the Classis, are unhappily situated. The Particular Synod have left us unequally yoked. On this ground, we have declined to meet with these Ministers. We have explained our sentiments in a remonstrance laid before the Particular Synod. We cannot walk with men who trample on the truth, nor can we be reconciled to them till they renounce their principles. We trust our principles are those of the unerring word of God, and therefore cannot recede from the stand we have taken. Our faces are unalterably set against the conduct of these men. We therefore pray that the General Synod will interfere; as we cannot walk with the majority of the Classis of Montgomery, considered as members in good standing, because we differ on fundamental docrines; as acting in the minority, it is impossible we should pursue the course of discipline pointed out by the Particular Synod, as it is preposterous to hold Mr. Ten Eick a fit subject of discipline, and those who make common cause with him and are in the same transgression, guiltless.

HENRY V. WYCKOFF,
NICHOLAS JONES, } *Ministers.*
ALBERT AMERMAN,

GARRIT I. LANSING,
JOHN BELLINGER, } *Elders.*
NICHOLAS VEGHTE,

The Committee of Overtures made the following report:

The Committee of Overtures beg leave to report, that there has been referred to them a letter, addressed to the Rev. Dr. Frælígh, and signed by twenty nine members of the congregation at Owasco, complaining of the conduct of their Minis-

ter, and praying for the interference of General Synod; which letter the Committee recommend to the notice of Synod.

All which is respectfully submitted.

C. C. VERMEULE, *Chairman.*

A communication from the General Synod of the Associate-Reformed Church was received, accompanied by various papers, which had been referred to said Synod, from certain members of the Associate-Reformed Church of Bloomingburgh, complaining of the organization of a Dutch Church within their bounds, by the Classis of Ulster; and requesting this Synod, as speedily as possible, to remove the grounds of complaint, in any way their wisdom may judge most proper.

The Rev. Jesse Fonda, appointed by the Classis of Ulster, was recognised as a Commissioner to defend said Classis in the above case. Mr. Fonda read sundry documents on the subject. Whereupon,

Resolved, That all the papers in relation to the congregagations of Bloomingburgh be referred to the Rev. J. Sickles, Dr. Bradford, the Rev. J. Gosman, and the Elder, Mr. Christian Miller, as a special Committee, to report to this Synod at its adjourned meeting to be held in the city of Albany on the 18th of October next.

ARTICLE IV.

Board of Corporation.

Resolved, That the Lemma "*Questarate*" be discontinued, and that immediately after the Lemma "*Communications*" be inserted a new one, to be called "Board of Corporation."

The following report was received from the Board of Corporation, and referred to the Rev. Dr. Bradford, Rev. C. C. Cuyler, and the Elder, Mr. A. Van Dyke:

Report of the Board of the Corporation to the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, June, 1820.

The undersigned, the President, Directors, and Treasurer,

forming the Board appointed by the General Synod, under their Charter of Incorporation, respectfully submit to the General Synod the following report:

The Board met shortly after their appointment. Mr. Nitchie, who had been appointed Treasurer, found it impracticable for him to act in that capacity, in consequence of previous engagements which required all his time and attention; and the duties of the Treasurer have been performed by Mr. Isaac Heyer, one of the Directors. The Board have met frequently, and have acted with perfect unanimity in all the business which has been before them.

Agreeably to the order of Synod, the Board caused circular letters to be addressed by their Secretary to all the agents appointed by Synod to make collections through the churches; but they have received an answer only from the agents in the Classes of Bergen and Paramus.

A difference of opinion having been found to exist as to funds, and other property in the hands of the Trustees of Queens College, the proceeds of which are applicable to the support of the Theological College located at New-Brunswick, this Board was instructed to enter into an examination of the whole subject, and report the result to the Synod at their present meeting. Accordingly, this Board now report to Synod that their instructions have been obeyed, and the whole subject has been carefully and patiently examined. A Committee of the Corporation has met with the Board of Trustees and with a Committee of that Board, and a representation of the facts and documents connected with the case has been prepared and laid before the Trustees: but the undersigned deeply regret that they are under the necessity of stating, that there is an essential difference of opinion between them and the Trustees, and one which very seriously involves the rights and interests of the General Synod.

The opinion of the undersigned in this case is, that General Synod may not indeed alienate the principal or the interest of the Professoral Fund from the support of the Professor of Theology; but that General Synod have still the right to examine as to the management of said fund, and to express their

pleasure in relation to the same, and that such expression of their pleasure is obligatory on the Board of Trustees. The correctness of this opinion is denied by the Board of Trustees: and while they agree that the Synod may advise in the premises, they assert that the Trustees may or may not follow such advice of Synod, as may seem fit to the Board. As the evidence on which their opinion is founded may not be familiar to every member of Synod, and as a justification of themselves, the undersigned make the following exhibition of the grounds on which their opinion rests.

1. Let it be remembered that the design for which the moneys which compose that fund were raised, was expressly the benefit of the General Synod, and only in a second degree the benefit of the Board of Trustees.

It is indeed true, that the Professor who receives the proceeds of that fund, is called the Professor of Theology in Queens College; but he is only nominally so: and in reality he is nothing less than the Professor of Theology of the Reformed Dutch Church. It was for the support of their Professor that the Synod had long been labouring, when the Board of Trustees made their propositions in 1807, and it was with a hope that he might be supported more fully, that the Synod acceded to those propositions. And the Board of Trustees, at the same time, calculated by the arrangements then made to render Queens College a more respectable and a more useful literary institution. If then the Synod have very far the greater interest in the careful management of the Professoral Fund; if *they* are to be profited by it, and not the Board of Trustees, it seems plain, that to the Synod should pertain the right of control over it, and they ought to have the oversight and direction of it.

It may be said that these remarks only go to show what ought to be the rights of Synod for their own interest, and that they do not form a demonstration that they possess such rights. We admit that it is so; but we have yet to add considerations which settle the matter beyond all reasonable question.

2. Let the manner in which those moneys were raised be also noticed.

We know that this was done by agents whom the Board of Trustees appointed; and this fact makes in favour of the ground which that Board have taken. But there are other facts of a very different tendency. It is a fact, that those moneys were raised with the aid and under the patronage of the General Synod; and without that aid and that patronage, the agents would have had little, very little success. It is a fact, that those agents represented that they were collecting moneys for the benefit of the Synod, and not merely of Queens College. It is a fact, that the subscribers in the State of New-York, at least a number of them, did subscribe with the understanding that they were bestowing their gifts for the Professorate of the Synod of the Dutch Church, and not merely for Queens College. And when such are the facts, can any one question who should have the control of the moneys thus raised? who should inspect their state from time to time, and the management of them? and who should have the direction, as to them, to make them most subservient to the purposes for which they were raised?

We have not forgotten that a form of a subscription paper was laid before our Committee, of which the following is a copy, viz.

"The Trustees of Queens College, in New-Jersey, sensible of the importance and responsibility of their trust, sincerely desirous of benefiting society to the utmost of their power, and encouraged by the public sentiment, and the growing spirit of improvement that pervades our country, have resolved to revive in its proper course of exercises, the institution under their care; provided they can obtain such a patronage of the public as will enable them to do it, on an establishment that shall promise respectability and usefulness. The erection of a more spacious College edifice for the accommodation of Students, which is indispensably necessary, will require not less than forty thousand dollars. For almost the whole of this sum, their present fund being very small, the Trustees are obliged to look, and they look with confidence, to the liberality of the public, and especially to the friends of useful science. The Trustees are now engaged in the erection of

the College edifice, which has progressed two stories in height; and the funds which have already been obtained from individual liberality are expended, and they are obliged to apply for assistance to complete the undertaking; and they confidently hope that this institution will yet, through the blessing of Providence, afford a rich harvest of youth properly qualified for extensive usefulness in Church and State.

"In order to accomplish this desirable object, we, the subscribers, promise to pay each for himself, and not the one for the other, to the Trustees of Queen's College in New-Jersey, or to their order, the sum annexed to our respective names, on demand." *(Not dated.)*

But we think that we need not hesitate to say, that we are confident, and a number of subscribers to the Professoral Fund have authorised us to assert, that such was not the form of a subscription paper, circulated in the State of New-York. The very tenor of the above form shows that it was intended only for the State of New-Jersey, and a few individuals elsewhere, whom peculiar circumstances and attachments might induce to subscribe to it.

Yet, no doubt, reference may be had to the Covenant made in 1807, between the Synod and the Board of Trustees. We wish not to conceal that Covenant; rather, we shall derive, from particulars connected with it, our strongest argument. The following is a copy of it, viz:

"It is mutually covenanted and agreed by the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in America, on the one part, and the Trustees of Queen's College, on the other:

"1.—That, in the plan for the revival of said College, they will employ their efforts to combine its literary interests with a decided support to evangelical truth, and the promotion of a faithful and able ministry in the Dutch Church.

"2.—That all the moneys raised by the Trustees of Queen's College in the state of New-York, shall, agreeably to the proposal of the said Trustees, be a fund exclusively appropriated to the support of a Theological Professorship in the College, and to the assistance of poor and pious young men who are desirous of entering into the Gospel ministry

under the patronage of the Dutch Church, as represented in the General Synod.

" 3.—That all the moneys which may have been raised for the Professorship under the injunction of the General Synod of 1806, be deposited in the hands of the Trustees of Queens College for the purpose expressed in the second article; and the persons appointed to raise contributions for the Professorship, shall stay their proceedings till the success of said Trustees be ascertained.

" 4.—The Trustees of Queens College shall call no Professor of Theology but such as shall be nominated and chosen by the General Synod, agreeably to the resolutions and arrangements formed in General Synod in 1804, respecting the permanent Professorship, which is hereby located at New-Brunswick.

" 5.—As soon as the Trustees shall have obtained a fund, the interest of which will yield a competent support to the Theological Professor, of which competency, whenever any difficulties or doubts may arise, the contracting parties shall judge and determine, the Trustees shall be bound, without delay, to call the Professor appointed by the Synod; and the Synod shall, and hereby do request their Professor, as soon as he shall have received such call, to make arrangements forthwith for entering upon the duties of his office.

" 6.—That a permanent board shall be appointed by the Synod to superintend the Theological Institution, to assist the Professor in arranging the course of instruction, to attend the examinations of the students in Theology, previous to their examination for licensure before Classis, to be known by the style of The superintendents of the Theological Institution in Queens College, and to be recognised as such by the Trustees of said College.

" 7.—The Synod agree to provide money for the purchase of a Theological Library, and for the purpose of erecting a Theological Hall; or, to contribute their proportion to the erecting such building or buildings, as may be designed for the joint accommodation of the Literary and Theological departments of the College, provided the sum do not amount to

more than would be necessary for erecting a separate building for the Professoral Hall.

"And in order to carry into effect this article, the Synod will have a collection taken up in each of the congregations under their care; and should this fail, or prove incompetent, then the Trustees shall take the requisite sum from the fund which they may have raised for the Professorate."

The only articles of this Covenant which have a bearing on the subject on which we now address the Synod, are, the 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th. From these articles, and from the Minutes of Synod of that same year in which the Covenant was made, it appears, that, at the request of the Board of Trustees, the Synod agreed to locate the Professorate at New-Brunswick; that the moneys raised in the state of New-York should be set apart for the support of that Professorate; and that the Trustees should apply the proceeds of such moneys to the individual whom the Synod had appointed as their Professor. He did, indeed, become nominally the Professor of Theology in Queens College; but this was *pro forma*, and he was not the less the Professor, whom in that very Covenant the Synod styled *their Professor*. It cannot now be denied, that this Covenant contains *no express* declaration who should have the control of the moneys of the Professoral Fund. The meaning and understanding of both parties then must be gathered from other sources. Are there any such? We answer, Yes; and we undertake to show, that,

3. Both the Synod and the Board of Trustees, have evidently so construed that Covenant, and so considered the fact to be, notwithstanding that Covenant, as that the acts of both show that the right of control over the moneys of the Professoral Fund, for which we contend, is vested in the General Synod.

In relation to the General Synod particularly, we can find no case in which their right of such control is recorded as doubtful in their Minutes, unless it be in a report of a Committee in October, 1817. But that report will be attended to by us hereafter.

If, after a long period had elapsed, the Synod had set up

the claim which we are now asserting ; if the Synod had made it only in an insulated case ; if it had *never* been brought, or but *once* or *twice*, been brought to the notice of the Board of Trustees ; if that Board had promptly, or had ever, *as a Board*, denied the justness of such a claim, then the case would have been widely different from what it now is. But to the time when we addressed them on this subject, the Board of Trustees, *as a Board*, had never denied the justness of this claim ; it has been repeatedly brought to their notice ; they themselves have admitted it, and acted upon it, and recorded and approved of the acts of Synod upon it ; and that at a period nearer to the time when the Covenant was made, than to the present time. The following recital of facts from the Minutes of Synod, with the remarks which we intersperse, will show the correctness of these averments.

In 1813, a Committee of the Board of Trustees of Queens College made a communication to the General Synod. In it they speak of the Theological Fund, " as committed by the General Synod to the guardianship of the Board of Trustees," and twice in that communication they speak of the sum " to be FURNISHED" by the General Synod for the erection and completion of the Theological Hall. What now was done by the Synod in consequence ? Did they find the moneys which were asked for, in some secret Treasury, or some unexpected liberality ? Did they plead that they were without funds, and ask the Board of Trustees to make an appropriation, because the Synod had nothing to appropriate ? No. They said that *they* stood pledged to *appropriate* a part of the Theological Fund, and *they resolved to appropriate it*. Surely, they did not then think that they were exercising rights which did not belong to them, and pretending to control where they could not ; nor did the Board of Trustees think so. The measure was adopted at the request of the Board of Trustees by their Committee, and we add, that *it was approved of by that Board* at a subsequent meeting ; and their own records show that they considered this order of Synod a valid order, and a proper FURNISHING of moneys, which the Synod were bound to FURNISH. We appeal to the records of the Board of Trustees at the meeting when their Committee reported. What

now can be more plain, than that, in 1813, the Synod thought, and the Board of Trustees thought, that the moneys of the Professoral Fund were under the control of the Synod? For we have just observed *the act* of the *greatest* degree of control which could be performed, *an appropriation of the principal* of the fund, and that act performed by the Synod on the application of the Board of Trustees. Assuredly, the Synod and the Board cannot *both* have the right of appropriation; and here it is conceded by the Board to belong to the Synod. It then follows, as we have said, that as in 1813, so now, the Synod have the right to express their pleasure in relation to the Professoral Fund, and that such expression of their pleasure is obligatory upon the Board of Trustees. Of course, Synod have also, as we have said, the right to examine into the state and management of the said fund.

We are aware that we cannot adduce another case quite so strong as this is, but we can add a number of particulars which are of a similar tendency, and almost as demonstrative as this.

In 1814, we find the following resolution passed by the Synod, which, after the transaction of the preceding year which we have just mentioned, was likely to be adopted by those who wished to know what was necessary to be done by them, in relation to the Professoral Fund, and who were fully conscious of their right to inspect its state, and direct as to its management. It is altogether too minute for those who thought that their whole right was to advise, and that their whole interference, if admitted at all, must be admitted only from courtesy.

"*Resolved*, That the Trustees of Queens College be, and are hereby requested to lay before General Synod, at every stated annual meeting, a particular statement of the receipts and disbursements of all moneys belonging to the Professoral Fund, and also a statement of the funds on hand, the manner of their investment, their annual product, and the account of debts due from that Fund to any person or persons whatsoever."

But lest we may be thought to have construed the opinions of the General Synod unwarrantably, as manifest from the pre-

ceding resolution, we refer to another, adopted at the same session, viz.

"*Resolved*, That the Board of Trustees of Queens College be directed immediately to pay the arrearages of the Professor's salary out of the principal of the Theological Fund."

Here is another unquestionable evidence that the Synod deemed the principal, as well as the interest, of the Professoral Fund, to be under their control; and that they thought, as we say that we believe is now the case, that they had a right to express their pleasure in relation to it, and that such expression of their pleasure was obligatory on the Board of Trustees: assuredly, if such was the truth in 1813, and in 1814, it must be equally true now.

We believe that the Board of Trustees did not indeed comply with this resolution of the General Synod, and we are sensible that on this account it may be said, that nothing in favour of the right of Synod, as to the Professoral Fund, can be argued from this resolution. We do not think so; for we would ask, and we do so, in consequence of what we believe to be the import of the records of the Board of Trustees in relation to this resolution, *why was it not complied with?* Is there any thing recorded in the minutes of the Board concerning it, which denies the right of Synod to exercise a control over the Professoral Fund, and to direct the Board of Trustees in relation to it? Was not the ground on which the Board declined to comply, *simply and solely*, that the Synod could not expend the *principal* of that fund, or order it to be expended? We think *that* was probably a correct decision of the Board. But we do not assert that Synod could or can appropriate the *principal* of the fund: yet if what we do assert was not the truth, and thought by the Board then not to be the truth, instead of passing a long and laboured resolution in consequence of the direction of the Synod, *how much more direct, and easy, and proper*, would it have been for the Board to have said, that the Synod could only *advise*, and that to *direct* was far beyond their province?

In June, 1815, (pages 14, 15,) we find the report of the Treasurer of Queens College, which he himself states to have been made by him "in obedience to the resolution" of Synod of 1814, which we have already quoted. This is a new

evidence of the existence of an opinion, that the Synod has full right to examine into the accounts of the Professoral Fund, and (as such examination must have some use) to turn the examination to profit.

In the Minutes of October, 1815, (page 11) we find the following expressions: "The fund already put into the hands of the Board of Trustees of Queens College, in trust for the support of a Theological Professorship in said College." And in the next paragraph, "The Synod declare, that after Dr. Livingston shall cease to receive the proceeds of the present Professorate Funds, the said proceeds shall be employed by this Synod in payment of their half of the salaries of the Professors whom they shall appoint in the Theological College at New-Brunswick." We do not know that these expressions were approved of by the Board of Trustees; but they were proposed by a Committee who had conferred with a Committee of that Board, and who undoubtedly did not object to them; and, moreover, they fully show that the Synod then regarded the Professoral Fund, as only put into the hands of the Trustees of Queens College *in trust*, and believed that they had the right to say and declare how such fund, as well as others, should be employed: thus we have further evidence of the proposition which we have already so fully established.

In 1816, (page 32) we find a repetition of the same sentiment by a Committee of Synod, and adopted by the Synod. The Professoral Fund is stated, among other moneys, to be "subject to the disposition of the General Synod."

In 1817, (pages 32 and 34) we find the Synod again declaring the duty of the Treasurer of the Professoral Fund, and giving him instructions as to the arrears of interest on that fund; thus anew manifesting the opinion of Synod concerning their rights. In another page, (33) the Synod show that opinion by a different expression, "the moneys already put into their hands, (the Board of Trustees) in trust by the General Synod."

In October, 1817, (page 6) we find the following: "The Trustees of Queens College give it as their opinion, that all the funds of every kind, (viz. at New-Brunswick) would, by

such removal, be placed beyond the control of General Synod, and be unavailable for the support of the school; how far this opinion may be correct, is not for your Committee to inquire." This is the language of a Committee, which we promised should not be forgotten. Assuredly, their language expresses or implies quite as much *in favour* of our proposition as *against it*. But what are we to say to their statement of what the Trustees gave as their opinion? "The funds would be placed *by such removal beyond the control* of General Synod;" That is, if there be meaning in words, while the Theological School was *not removed*, the funds *were under the control* of Synod. If the Trustees had not expressed this opinion, it should long ago have been disavowed; but if they did express it, it is only a new manifestation of our proposition.

In November, 1818, joint Committees of the Synod, and the Board of Trustees, did adjust the amount of interest due on a part of the Professoral Fund. The fact that such Committees were appointed and empowered for this purpose shows, that both the Synod and the Board of Trustees thought that the Synod had such rights in relation to the Professoral Fund, at least in a good measure, as those which we have shown that they possess, and have exercised.

We shall not attempt to adduce further proof: we think we have shown undeniably, that the Synod have full right to examine into the state and management of the said Fund, and to express their pleasure in relation to the same; and that such expression of their pleasure is obligatory upon the Board of Trustees. The evidence of this is not of a recent existence, but has been long on record; and the transactions which form the strongest part of that evidence have not taken place in times of anger, and strife, and opposition; but in the period of harmonious intercourse, and with the sanction and approbation of both parties.

This Board wish to annex to this exhibition of evidence on this subject, some further remarks.

In the providence of God, the concerns of the Board of Trustees, and those of the Synod, have become very considerably blended. At present Queens College owes its measure of

respectability to the Theological School of the Synod, and the Synod have a large portion of their expectations every year from funds which are in the hands of the Board of Trustees. The one body can afford material benefit to the other; but in order to this, harmony, cordiality, confidence, are requisite. And to preserve and maintain such harmony, cordiality, and confidence, it is most important that neither the one body should deny the rights of the other; nor the one body set up new claims which cannot be justified, or which infringe on the rights of the other. In relation to the funds and other property in the hands of the Board of Trustees, the Synod will have little reason indeed to feel any other than sentiments of warm gratitude, if the Board manage those funds so as to produce the revenue which they ought to produce, and that revenue be regularly received: then the connexion between the Synod and the Board will be manifestly for the advantage of both, and they may make united efforts which shall be the more successful because of the union, and whose success shall be a mutual benefit. But compelled as we now are to state, that the rights of Synod are denied by the Board of Trustees, we can foresee at least great probability of increased collision, and dissatisfaction, and evil; for the rights of the Synod are too evident to be lost sight of, and too important and strongly supported to be tamely abandoned. The result, therefore, we apprehend, will be much excitement, and displeasure, and censure. The advocates for the removal of the Seminary may rise from their slumbers, with new strength, and with new arguments. They may plead, and there will be plausibility, if not truth, in the plea, that the Synod would be the gainers by removing the Seminary, insomuch as if they are to receive little or no advantage from the funds at New-Brunswick, they would, by removing their Seminary, obtain new friends, and stimulate their friends to new efforts; and they would at least no longer have it said, as an excuse for inaction, that they have large and productive funds at New-Brunswick, and do not much need assistance. And when to this plea and this language, a reply might be made with the question, would you give up these funds to the Board of Trustees? the advo-

cates for a removal might say, It would be better to give them up, than to have it supposed that they are large and productive, when in fact their proceeds are small and uncertain; and they might add, that it is something more than probable, that the conduct of the Board of Trustees, in relation to the part of the Professoral Fund, which they have not loaned to individuals, and in relation to the interest of it, would ensure an application of a legal remedy, by which the rights of the Synod would be perfectly secured.

We deprecate all these results. We are not now the advocates of a removal of the Seminary, and we are not acquainted with any plan for that purpose, at present pursued by any others. We are not fond of a resort to legal measures: but if the rights of Synod are denied, we think that the considerations which we now proceed to mention, will constrain the Synod to use their Charter of Incorporation, and appeal to the laws of their country. It should not be a small thing which induced them to this; but the funds and property in question, are not small in themselves, at least they are not small to the Synod. They are now burthened with a heavy establishment, and their expenses are very considerable. The funds which the Synod have in their own hands are limited, and their treasury is almost exhausted. They must resort to new measures, and cause new exertions to be made, in order to replenish their treasury, and increase their funds: they must again appeal to the Christian liberality of the members and friends of the Reformed Dutch Church, a liberality to which they have often appealed before, and to which they have never yet appealed in vain; a liberality which requires only to be properly and perseveringly excited, to ensure the full supply of their wants, and to justify them in adopting new plans for their advantage, though attended with increased expense. But they might fear to find that liberality forsaking them, refusing to help them, or only bestowing with a reluctant hand a scanty pittance, were they to abandon their rights, or to fail to assert them, to funds which had formerly proceeded from that same liberality, and purely and solely for the benefit of the Synod. So that if they will omit to attend to their interests, in relation

to those funds, they may fear, they may even calculate on, being constrained to break up their Theological School, and to forego all their fondly cherished hopes, and all their present cheering prospects. On the other hand, when the members and friends of the Church knew that the Synod were faithful to their interests and their duty, insisting on their just claims, and determined not to yield them up, then these persons would listen readily to the new call on their liberality, which must be made, and that quickly and loudly; and they would be encouraged to give by the assurance they would feel, that their gifts would be preserved, or used with care, and to the best advantage, and that the necessities of the Synod were the result, not in any degree of an unjustifiable and weak abandonment of property, the benefit of which they were bound to secure, but the result of circumstances which the Synod had faithfully laboured to render as little burdensome, and as extensively and permanently useful as was possible.

As the Synod ordered, at their last session, a demand has been made by this Board, for the arrears of interest due, especially on that part of the Professoral Fund which has not been loaned on bond and mortgage; but this demand has not been complied with. The Board of Trustees, and their agents, have said repeatedly, as appears by the records of the Synod, that such interest *was allowed* at seven per cent. But it is an unquestionable fact, that *no* such interest has ever been *paid*, not one single cent; and its amount is now about $1400. In this case, there can be no plea that other individuals were to pay the interest, and that it could not be collected; it was to be paid by the Board of Trustees, and by no other. It was annually due, and it was averred to be allowed. It yet is withheld altogether. The Synod will doubtless attend to this matter without being urged to do so by this Board; and the undersigned deem it their duty to add but one fact more, which they wish that Synod would carefully notice, that they possess satisfactory evidence that the principal on which the above interest has accumulated, has been expended by the Board of Trustees, on the College building, without the knowledge and consent of the General Synod.

In the course of the examination which the Synod instructed the undersigned to make, it has become very manifest, that the mode of investment of the moneys of the Professoral, and the Van Bunschooten Funds, cannot be too speedily changed, as the interest is not, and cannot be regularly collected, and considerable losses are perhaps already unavoidable. This subject we request the Synod to take into consideration..

Further, the undersigned are advised by legal gentlemen, that a Corporation of another state cannot hold real property in this state. If this opinion be true, measures cannot be too promptly adopted, to have the title to the lands of the Professoral Fund vested in the General Synod, as an incorporated body.

In relation to the deductions from the Van Bunschooten Fund, of $1084,42, to which we were required to attend, we are enabled to state, that we consider those deductions as warranted and unobjectionable.

Such is the report of the examination which the Synod instructed us to make, and to which we have endeavoured faithfully to attend.

The following is a Statement of the Receipts into the Treasury, and of the Payments from it during the year, from May 28th, 1819, *to June 1st,* 1820, viz.

RECEIPTS.

1819.		Dls.	C.
May 28.	By Balance, as per account rendered to the General Synod	1646	12
29.	Cash, the amount of a collection in the Church of New Paltz, by Rev. W. R. Bogardus . . .	8	79
do.	from the Cent Society at New Hurley, by the same gentleman	12	35
31.	do. from the Brooklyn Female Cent Society, by Rev. S. S. Woodhull	62	9
July 30.	do. from Rev. Dr. Brodhead, for subscriptions of individuals in his congregation for permanent fund	180	00
do.	from Peter Auner, Treasurer of Male Cent Society of 1st Reformed Dutch Church in Philadelphia	50	00
do.	from Dr. Brodhead, collected from individuals in congregations of North and South Hampton	56	25
do.	from Alletta Veghte, Secretary of Cent Society, Somerville	60	00

1819.			Dls.	C.
July 30.	By Cash	from Rev. R. Sluyter, collected in Church at Claverack	19	00
Aug. 5.	do.	for one quarter's interest on State Stock	45	75
	do.	for one quarter's interest on City Stock	10	50
15.	do.	from A. Ferdon, collected in Church at Tappan	9	25
31.	do.	from John Van Riper & Co. for privilege of printing 1000 copies of Psalms	60	00
	do.	from Female Cent Society of the town of Bergen	50	00
31.	do.	from the Female Cent Society of Saratoga and Northumberland	20	17
	do.	from Rev. Dr. Bassett, collected in congregation at Bushwick	6	79
Sept. 7.	do.	from the Female Cent Society of Kinderhook	46	37
Oct. 27.	do.	from Church at Schenectady	31	82
Nov. 1.	do.	from Juvenile Cent Society of the town of Bergen	15	00
	do.	collected in Church at Bergen	10	00
4.	do.	from Elizabeth Hopper, Treasurer of Female Cent Society, Bloomingdale	108	24
6.	do.	from Female Cent Society of 1st Reformed Dutch Church in Philadelphia	100	00
24.	do.	collected in Churches at Flatbush and Flatlands	33	00
27.	do.	from Female Cent Society at Belleville	26	00
	do.	from J. Labagh, Treasurer of Female Cent Society, Greenwich	23	41
29.	do.	from Female Cent Society of North Dutch Church, Schralenburgh	20	38
Dec. 3.	do.	from Peter Spader, Treasurer of a Society in New-Brunswick	23	75
17.	do.	from Female Cent Society, Paramus	13	00
20.	do.	from Female Cent Society, Brooklyn	43	6
27.	do.	from Female Cent Society at New-Brunswick	26	00
1820.				
Jan. 12.	do.	from Mrs. E. Evertson, Treasurer of the Cent Society of the Collegiate Churches in the city of New-York	247	72
13.	do.	from Col. Henry Rutgers, for 1 year's interest on his subscription to permanent fund	210	00
13.	do.	from Isaac Heyer, for 1 year's interest on his subscription to the same fund	35	00
17.	do.	for 2 quarter's interest on State Stock	91	50
	do.	for 1 quarter's interest on City Stock	10	50
Feb. 1.	do.	from Abraham Van Nest, amount subscribed by him for permanent fund	500	00
	do.	from do. for 18 months interest on the same	52	50
6.	do.	from Susan Rapelyee, Secretary of Female Cent Society of Newtown, L. I.	29	30
	do.	from Rev. J. Schoonmaker, from Classis of L. I. for Minutes of Synod for 1818	8	81
9.	do.	from Elizabeth Nitchie, Treasurer of Female Cent Society of Church in Garden-street, New-York	83	38
11.	do.	from Rev. John I. Christie, collected in Church at Warwick	5	38
12.	do.	from Rev. A. D. Wilson, collected in Churches at Schawangunk and New Prospect, for Theological College	22	50
	do.	from do. for Missionary fund	15	00
	do.	from do. collected in Cent Society in New Prospect	6	40

1820.			Dls. C.
Mar. 21.	By Cash	from James Bogert, collected in Church at Haerlem	22 40
April 19.	do.	from Garrit Gates, collected at North Dutch Church, Albany	53 25
29.	do.	from Rev. Jesse Fonda, collected in Cent Society at Montgomery	22 00
	do.	from ladies of the Church at Montgomery, to constitute Mrs. Fonda a member for life of their Cent Society	5 00
	do.	from Rev. J. Fonda, collected in Church at Montgomery	37 23
	do.	from do. collected in a Praying Society of young persons at Montgomery	2 12
	do.	from Catharine Ann Beekman, Treasurer of Cent Society, Six-Mile-Run	25 00
May 3.	do.	from Miss Jane De Mott, Treasurer of Cent Society in the town of Bergen	50 00
	do.	from Rev. John Cornelison, Treasurer of Classis of Bergen, for Minutes of 1819 . . .	6 25
	do.	from Female Cent Society, in congregation at Hillsborough	27 60
	do.	from Rev. John L. Zabriskie, collected in Classis of New-Brunswick, for Missionary fund -	58 2
	do.	from do. collected in same Classis for Theological Seminary	10 00
8.	do.	from Rev. Walter Monteith, collected in the Churches of Flatbush and Flatlands . .	36 37
	do.	from James Bogert, jr. collected in Church at Haerlem	26 00
10.	do.	from Rev. Isaac Labagh, collected in his congregation	24 00
11.	do.	from Rev. Jacob T. Field, collected in Church at Pompton	10 80
17.	do.	from Rev. Thomas De Witt, collected in Church at Hopewell - - - - - -	38 75
	do.	from do. collected in Church at New Hackinsack - - - - - - - - - -	35 31
	do.	from do. as Questor of Classis of Poughkeepsie, for Minutes of Synod - - - - - -	20 00
18.	do.	in a letter from Rev. R. Bronk, collected by a Society at Watervleit - - - $20 00 Deduct postage - - - - 55	19 45
19.	do.	from Rev. Peter D. Fræligh, collected in Church at Aquackenunck - - - -	6 00
22.	do.	from Rev. J. Schoonmaker, from Classis of L. I. for Minutes of Synod for 1819 - - -	6 75
24.	do.	from Mrs. Van Santvoord, Treasurer of Cent Society, Belleville - - - - - -	19 00
26.	do.	from I. L. Kip, Treasurer of Collegiate Churches in New-York, their annual subscription for five years, to permanent fund - - -	350 00
29.	do.	from Rev. C. C. Cuyler, collected by Cent Societies of Greenbush and Taghcanick, congregations under the pastoral care of Rev. Harman Vedder - - - - - - - -	40 00
31.	do.	from Cent Society of the congregation of Harlingen - - - - - - - -	43 25

1820.			Dls.	C.
June 1.	By Cash	from Rev. Gilbert R. Livingston, collected by Cent Society at Coxsackie - - - - -	36	53
	do.	from Consistory of Church in Garden-street, New-York, their annual subscription for five years to permanent fund - - - - -	200	00
			5376	16

PAYMENTS.

1819.			Dls.	C.
May 31.	To Cash	paid draft of the Board of Superintendents in favour of Mr. John S. Mapon - - - - -	125	00
	do.	paid a draft of the same Board in favour of Rev. James S. Cannon - - - - - -	300	00
June 23.	do.	remitted to the Rev. Dr. John H. Livingston in full of his salary to the 1st instant - -	162	75
Aug. 1.	do.	paid Webster & Skinner's account for stationary at session of Synod in Albany - - -	3	44
	do.	paid Barent Bogert, door keeper - - -	11	00
	do.	paid expenses of Committee to Church at Greenwich - - - - - - - -	43	00
Sept. 25.	do.	paid Abraham Labagh for tombs for Rev. Elias Van Bunschooten, and late Professor Schureman - - - - - - - - - - -	394	93
27.	do.	paid Professor Livingston 1 quarter's salary -	437	40
Oct. 14.	do.	paid Rev. Dr. Milledoler, and Rev. S. S. Woodhull, for books purchased for Library - -	38	10
	do.	paid expenses of Rev. Dr. Milledoler, and Rev. Isaac Labagh, delegates to German Synod -	68	00
Nov. 3.	do.	paid A. Paul for printing Minutes of General Synod - - - - - - - - - -	180	00
Dec. 13.	do.	paid Professor Livingston 1 quarter's salary -	437	50
20.	do.	paid expenses of Stated Clerk - . - -	38	50
21.	do.	paid Committee to purchase books for Library -	20	
24.	do.	paid do. for the same - - - - -	104	14
28.	do.	paid Professor Ludlow 1 quarter's salary - -	387	50
17.	do.	paid Committee to purchase books for Library -	39	
1820.				
Mar. 30.	do.	paid Professor Ludlow 1 quarter's salary - -	387	50
	do.	John I. Westervelt for Committee of Missions -	166	30
Apr. 1.	do.	paid expenses of Board of Corporation to New Brunswick - - - - - - - - -	28	62
May 31,	do.	paid the Order of Board of Superintendents of Theological College for Indigent Students -	670	
	do.	paid Rev. Paschal N. Strong one year's salary as Secretary to the Board of Corporation -	100	
			4147	78
		Balance due the General Synod - - -	1228	38

New-York, June 1, 1820.

The General Synod have made it the duty of this Board, to prepare the Annual Digest. The following is therefore exhibited in obedience to this order of Synod.

1. As to the Van Bunschooten fund.

The amount actually received on this fund, and at interest on bond and mortgage, at 7 per cent. is	$14750 00
And the annual interest on this sum, is . . .	1032 50
There is yet to be received, payable in future years without interest	3840 00
There is a balance of interest in the hands of the Treasurer of Queens College, of	305 82

And we have reason to believe, that there is now due, of interest on this fund, more than $ 2100.

We respectfully remind Synod of the propriety of their recommending some persons to receive aid from this fund.

II. As to the Professoral Fund.

The bonds for moneys belonging to this fund, amount to	$9840 00
(A small amount of interest has been added to the principal in one case, and included in a new bond; and this may account for the difference between this sum, and the sum stated last year.)	
The Trustees are accountable for principal not loaned	2212 57
The annual interest of both these sums to be paid to the Professor of Theology, ought to be . .	843 68

From June 1st, 1819, to June 1st, 1820, there has been paid to the Professor of Theology, only $450 from this fund.

The arrears of interest due on this fund are,

On the part loaned to individuals, more than	$900 00
On the part in the hands of the Trustees, more than	1400 00

III. Indigent Students.

The Trustees of Queens College have appropriated consi-

derable sums to such students during the last year, and consequently only $670 has been drawn from the Treasury of Synod for their aid since June 1st, 1819.

IV. Permanent Fund.

The amount of this fund is,

In stock of the State of New-York, at 6 per cent.	$3050 00
do Corporation of the City of New-York at 6 per cent.	700 00
In individual obligations, at 7 per cent. . . .	4940 00
Balance in the hands of the Treasurer	443 05
Amounting to	$9133 05
And its annual product will be about	570 00

The stock mentioned in the last digest, as belonging to the Professorate account, has been sold to the Permanent Fund, and the amount used for the support of the Professors.

The stock and obligations of this Fund are now held by different individuals, as Trustees for the General Synod. We respectfully request Synod to consider the propriety of causing these individuals to transfer the property thus held by them, and to adopt the measures in relation to the same, which such transfer will render necessary.

V. The Proceeds from Printing the Constitution.

The amount due from the printer being small, and the sales being slow, the money has not yet been collected.

VI. Collections in the Churches.

During the past year, there has been received from this source about $265, excluding the collections for the Missionary and Contingent Funds.

VII. Cent Societies.

The receipts from these during the past pear, have been $1352.68, of which $331.10 was for the Permanent Fund.

VIII. Subscriptions made in 1815.

All these are now due, but no moneys have been received from this source during the last year. It is the request of one of the agents by whom these subscriptions were obtained, that this board may be instructed and empowered to take all suitable measures in relation to these subscriptions.

IX. The Minutes of General Synod.

The arrears of Classes for printed Minutes, were estimated at $185 in the last digest, and $141 25 ought to have been paid by Classes for the Minutes of June last. But only $41.81 have been received; so that these arrears for Minutes now amount to $284.44.

Probably this business had better be committed to this Board.

X. The Contingent Fund.

On this fund have been received $76 20, and paid $872 49, since the last digest. This fund is chargeable with a debt to the Missionary Fund of $410 28. It appears very necessary that Synod pursue some measures without delay to increase the receipts on this fund.

XI. The Donation of the Rev. Wilhelmus Eltinge.

Since the last report nothing has been paid on the stock of which this donation consists.

XII. Balances of Accounts.

There are the following balances in the hands of the Treasurer, viz.

On the Permanent fund Account	$443 05
On the Missionary do.	169 60
Applicable to other purposes	615 73
	$1228 38

XIII. Legacy of the late Miss Rebecca Knox.

All the interest due on this legacy up to January, 1820, has

been received by the Trustees of Queens College, and we believe, paid by them to indigent Students.

XIV. The Library.

There has been paid to the order of the Committee for this object, the amount of $201 24, during the last year.

XV. Debts of General Synod.

To the Missionary Fund, as stated in the last report	$410 28	
Balance in the Treasurer's hands	169 60	
		$579 88
To the Rev. Dr. Livingston, which will be in full to June 1st, 1820		425 00
Mr. Ludlow		387 50
Cash in the Treasury belonging to the Permanent Fund		443 05
		$1835 43

XVI. Estimate of Expenses of the General Synod from June 1st, 1820, to June 1st, 1821.

1. Payment of debts, as mentioned in the preceding article	$1835 43
2. Salaries of two Professors for the year . .	3300,00
2. For Indigent Students (in addition to what may be paid by the Trustees of Queens College) about	700 00
4. For Contingent Expenses, about	500 00
	$6335 43

XVII. Estimate of Receipts from June 1st, 1820, to June 1st, 1821, to meet the above expenses under existing arrangements.

1. From the Professoral Fund, probably not more than	$450 00
2. On the Permanent Fund	570 00

3. On Mr. Eltinge's donation	15 00
4. From Cent Societies, not in aid of the Permanent Fund	850 00
5. From Classes for printed Minutes	50 00
6. From Collections for the Contingent Fund	80 00
7. From other Collections in the Churches . .	200 00
8. From the printer of the Constitution . . .	25 00
9. Add the balance in the Treasury	1228 38
	$3468 38

This last estimate, the Synod will observe, is of receipts *to meet the above expenses*, and is exclusive of receipts to the Missionary and Permanent Funds, and of what may be paid on the Van Bunschooten Fund and Miss Knox's legacy. The Synod will also observe, that the estimate is predicated *of existing arrangements*. It appears that the estimate of expenses exceeds the estimate of such receipts, $2867.05. And the undersigned believe that this would be *even less* than the result, should the existing arrangements be continued, and *no new efforts be made*.

When we state that such is our conviction, the Synod will not be surprised at the following remarks and suggestions.

The Corporation of General Synod have become deeply impressed with the necessity of vigorous exertions, on the part of the Synod, to support their Theological Institution. The small receipts during the last year, compared with the heavy expenditures which have necessarily been made, even on the present establishment of Professorships, and with the present number of Students, and without any great additions to the Theological Library, show the indispensable importance of other and more efficient measures than have yet been adopted. The Corporation are sensible, that however wise and salutary the regulations hitherto made by the Synod, for procuring funds, may have been, their failure of adequate success has been owing to causes which the Synod could not well control, and which, they flatter themselves, can now be remedi-

ed, since the Synod have obtained an act of incorporation, and appointed a Board to manage their pecuniary concerns. They would, with much deference, state, that, in their opinion, the experience of other similar judicatures has abundantly testified, that the pecuniary business of such bodies is always more profitably, punctually, and successfully managed, in the hands of a small, judicious, efficient Board, whose *business* it is frequently and regularly to attend to it, than by ever so large and respectable a judicatory, the members of which are perpetually changing, and whose meetings, necessarily, can seldom exceed one in the course of a year. Under these impressions, to the correctness of which the Corporation believe the Synod will readily accede, the Board having occasionally, during the past year, derived suggestions in the course of business which has come before them, as to the deficiencies in the present system of regulations adopted by the Synod, for collecting moneys, and which might lead to a more sure and prompt mode of effecting the great objects of the Synod, would respectfully suggest the following, as worthy their attention.

1. This Board would recommend to General Synod, to order that collections *shall* be taken up throughout all their Churches, on certain specified days, for certain specified objects—as for example, on the first Sabbath in November, for the *Theological College ;* on the first Sabbath in May, for the benefit of the *Permanent* Fund ; on the second Sabbath of January, for the *Missionary and Contingent* Funds ; and that these collections *must and shall* be taken up on those days, if only *a dollar* be collected. The Synod will readily acknowledge that it is a matter of great importance to the interests of the Church, to secure *punctuality*, and *uniformity*, and *certainty*, as to the payments to these respective funds, whatever these payments may be ; and that it is as *easy* a matter to be uniform and punctual as to the *time* of these collections, as it is *important*—that collections punctually made and received, even though they may be small, are more desirable and valuable, than larger collections occasionally received : And that if it be practicable, it is highly desirable, that *every* congrega-

tion in the bounds of the Reformed Dutch Church, whether poor or rich, great or small, vacant or supplied, should, on one and the same day, be engaged in making these specific collections. To secure this object, the Board would recommend, that the General Synod ordain a positive statute, *enjoining* this duty on all the Churches ; that they specify the particular Sabbaths for raising the collections for the particular purposes, and require them to transmit the amount of money thus collected, to the Treasurer of this Corporation, immediately after the collections are made. They would recommend that the execution of this injunction be committed to this Board—that it be their duty to write a circular letter to all the Churches, enclosing a copy of the injunction—and that, should any of the Churches not render their report to this Corporation, in a reasonable time after the collections are directed to be made, such Churches be marked on the records, and reported as delinquent to the Synod, and be subject to such censure as the Synod may deem proper to inflict.

On this point the Board would further state, that from June, 1818, to June, 1819, moneys were received from only fifty-two Churches in the bounds of the Synod, which amounted to $3594.71 : whereas there are about one hundred and forty congregations in the denomination, and of course nearly one hundred congregations never contributed at all ; and no effectual measures have been adopted to secure moneys from them. But if the Synod will enjoin on every inferior judicatory, to inquire regularly into these collections, and to further the plans of General Synod, and should even a small collection be made for the purposes specified, from *all* the congregations, it is easy to perceive how great an addition must necessarily be made to the funds of Synod, compared with what has been formerly received ; and how much the facility of payment, on the part of this Board, will be increased, from the certainty and punctuality of receiving them.

2. This Board would suggest, that subscriptions *shall* be taken up for a term of years in the bounds of all our Churches, for the benefit of the permanent fund, by such persons as shall be from time to time appointed by this Board for

that purpose—and the money and subscription lists be handed over to the Treasurer of this Board—and that this Board shall have full power to pay any and all the agents whom they may employ, as well their travelling expenses, as a suitable remuneration for their trouble. It is unnecessary for this Board to state to the Synod the vast importance of these subscriptions for a definite period, to augment the funds of the Church, and the necessity of having agents to attend to their collection. The Synod have indeed their agents in their respective Classes, many of whom deserve no small thanks for their former industry and success: but the Board are satisfied that the plan they would suggest is not liable to the objections which may be raised against the present system of agents in the respective Classes; that it will be found altogether more certain and effectual; and that the *additional* amounts raised on this plan will be such, as to render the expenses and compensation of these agents a secondary consideration. Should the Synod agree to this suggestion, it would be the intention of the Board to select the best men that can be found to undertake this agency, and that, too, on the most reasonable terms; and as circumstances might occur which would render a change of these agents, or a new appointment, necessary, the Board would respectfully suggest to Synod to leave the appointment and the compensation of these agents with them. It would be the *great business* of these agents to attend to these subscriptions, and to such other matters as the Board might entrust to them: Whereas those now appointed in the several Classes cannot leave their congregations a sufficient length of time for profitably attending to their agency, and have not those obligations resting on them which would rest on agents specially appointed for these special purposes, and remunerated according to their services.

3. The Corporation would recommend, as to Cent Societies, that this Board should have power to form such Societies in all the Churches, and to take suitable measures, if practicable, to continue them in a prosperous state. These Societies do not possess the faculty of perpetual motion, but like a clock, need to be frequently wound up and kept in operation. The formation and continuance of such Societies might be ef-

fectually and simultaneously attended to by the agents whom this Corporation would send out through the Churches, if the Synod should grant them the power they deem expedient for them to possess. It is unnecessary for this Board to dwell for a moment on the advantages of these Cent Societies, whether as to their moral effects on the members of those Societies themselves, or their pecuniary emoluments to the Church itself; but the Synod will at the same time perceive the indispensable necessity of having agents, whose great business it shall be to form and revive such institutions through the Reformed Dutch Church. And they flatter themselves, that should the General Synod vest them with this power, they would soon realize an addition to their funds, which at present they greatly need, and which, under existing arrangements, they have no reason to expect.

4. The last item of revenue which the Corporation would propose, if it be practicable, is, that every member in full communion with the Reformed Dutch Church, should *identify himself or herself* with the Church, by a small donation yearly, (say 25 cents)—that for this purpose a book be provided by each congregation, and the name of the donor and amount of the yearly donation be inserted in this book—that this be adopted not as a *tax*, but as a strong recommendatory measure from the Synod to the Churches;—that, as to the mode of its collection, it be paid in the Church at a certain time, to be notified from the pulpit for that purpose, and that the names of the donors, with the sums paid, after being registered, shall be transmitted to this Board. A measure of this kind would stimulate the zeal of many, and if generally adopted, would produce a large sum of money. There are in the Reformed Dutch Church at least 15,000 communicants, and at the rate of 25 cents a year, (as the very poorest member of a Church could afford to pay that small sum,) this measure would afford a revenue of from 3 to 4,000 dollars per annum.

The Board now submit the whole of this report to Synod, confident, that however it may have occupied, or may hereafter occupy, the time of the Synod, they yet will be excused and even justified for the detail into which they have gone, and the freedom which they have used. And they will be high-

ly gratified, if in this last act which they perform before a new Board is elected, they shall have materially subserved the interests of the Church, and have given to the Synod such suggestions as shall replenish to overflowing their now exhausted treasury.

One of this Board is deputed to obey the calls of the Synod, and to give any explanations they may desire, and to answer any inquiries which may be made.

All which is respectfully submitted,

HENRY RUTGERS, *President.*
ISSAC L. KIP,
ISAAC HEYER, } *Directors.*
S. S. WOODHULL,
JOHN NITCHIE, *Treasurer.*

New-York, June 1, 1820.

The Committee to whom the above documents were referred, made their report, which was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred the report of the Board of the Corporation to the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, respectfully report—

That they have examined that communication, and congratulate the Synod on the appointment of such a Board; the diligence, faithfulness, enlightened views, and persevering attention which they have shown to the best and vital interests of our Church;—they feel bound to acknowledge the gratitude due to them, and in *their own spirit*, would recommend the following resolutions for adoption by the Synod, viz.

1st. *Resolved*, That the Board of the Corporation be empowered and instructed to make such further efforts as they may consider calculated to induce the Board of Trustees of Queens College to admit the correctness of the opinion, expressed by the Corporation in their report, as to the *right* of Synod in relation to the moneys and other property of the Professoral fund.

2d. *Resolved*, That in case such efforts should be unsuccessful, the Board of the Corporation be instructed and empowered to resort to other measures; and as the first of such,

that the matter be submitted to the Chancellors of the states of New-York and New-Jersey, as arbitrators.

3d. *Resolved*, That this Synod insist on their claim to the interest now due on that part of the Professoral fund which has not been loaned to individuals ; and instruct the Board of the Corporation to attend to such claim.

4th. *Resolved*, That this Synod earnestly recommend to the Board of Trustees to change the mode of investment of the moneys of the Professoral and the Van Bunschooten funds, as soon as possible ; and that the Board of Corporation be appointed a Committee on the part of this body, to agree with a like Committee of the Board of Trustees of Queens College, with respect to changing the mode of investment of the last named fund.

5th. *Resolved*, That the Board of the Corporation be instructed and empowered to endeavour to have *the title* to the lands of the Professoral fund vested in the General Synod, as an *incorporated* body ; to cause the stock and obligations of the permanent fund to be transferred to the General Synod, as an *incorporated* body, and to perform all acts in relation to the same, which such transfer will render necessary and proper ; to take all suitable measures in relation to the arrears and dues of Classes for the printed Minutes of Synod ; and as to *the proceeds* from printing the Constitution, and as to the *unpaid* subscriptions made in 1815.

6th. *Resolved*, That collections be taken up in all the Churches connected with this Synod, on the first Sabbath of November, for the Theological College ; on the first Sabbath in May, for the permanent fund ; on the first Sabbath in January, for the Missionary and contingent funds ; and that these collections must and *shall* be taken up on *those days*, unless prevented by imperious circumstances, and in such cases that they be made as soon after as possible, if *only* a *dollar* be collected ; and that the moneys collected under this injunction, be transmitted to the Treasurer of Synod, immediately after the collections are made. Your Committee recommend, that the execution of this injunction be committed to the Board of Corporation, that it be their duty to write a circular letter to

all the Churches, enclosing a copy of this injunction ; and that, should any of the Churches not render their report to the Corporation, in a reasonable time after the collections are directed to be made, such Churches be marked on the records, and reported as delinquent to the Synod, and be subject to such censure as the Synod may deem proper to inflict.

7th. *Resolved*, That it be enjoined on all the inferior judicatories, in order to further the plans of General Synod, to inquire regularly into these collections, and report the result to the Board of Corporation.

8th. *Resolved*, That the Board of Corporation be instructed and empowered to employ agents for obtaining additions to the permanent fund ; and that such agents be recommended by this Synod to the attention of the Churches where they may be employed on this work of Christian charity ; and that it be earnestly enjoined upon all the Churches under the care of this Synod, who have not already adopted the measure, to institute Cent Societies, for the support of the Theological School ; and that the Consistories of the Churches be requested to take prompt and efficient measures, from time to time, for the encouragement and support of such as are already organized.

9th. *Resolved*, That this Synod recommend, that every member of the Reformed Dutch Church *identify himself* or *herself* with the Church, by a small donation yearly, (say 25 cents or more.) That for this purpose a book be provided by each congregation, and the name of the *donor* and amount of the yearly donation be inserted in this book ; that this be adopted not as a *tax*, but as a strong recommendatory measure from the Synod to the Churches ; that, as to the mode of its collection, it be paid in the different Churches on the last Sabbath in December, notice to be given from the pulpits to that effect ; and that the names of the donors, with the sums paid, after being registered, be transmitted to the Board of Corporation.

10th. Mr. John Nitchie having such previous engagements as render it impracticable for him to perform the duties of Treasurer, and having tendered to Synod his resignation,

Resolved, That his resignation be accepted, and that Mr. Isaac Heyer be appointed Treasurer in the place of Mr. Nitchie; and that Mr. Guisbert B. Vroom be appointed Director in the place of Mr. Heyer.

To conclude; the above resolutions are reported, because past experience and the best prospects of the Church require, that all the pecuniary interests of Synod should be intrusted in the hands of a Board, faithful, intelligent, active, tried—who are at your own disposal, and in whom your Committee believe your confidence cannot be misplaced or betrayed.

JOHN M. BRADFORD, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the Rev. John Gossman, Jesse Fonda, and W. Eltinge, and the Elder Mr. C. Heyer, be a Committee to report to this Synod a nomination of three times the number of persons who shall constitute the Board of Directors under the charter. This Committee reported accordingly, and the Synod proceeded to ballot for a President, three Directors and a Treasurer of the Corporation; when Mr. Henry Rutgers was chosen President, Messrs. Isaac L. Kip, Guisbert B. Vroom, and Rev. Selah S. Woodhull, were chosen Directors, and Mr. Isaac Heyer, was chosen Treasurer of the Corporation.

The door-keeper's bill, amounting to $11 : 62½, was ordered to be paid.

ARTICLE V.

Correspondence.

The Rev. Dr. Helfenstein being present, and producing testimonials of his appointment by the German Reformed Synod, was invited to sit as a Corresponding Member of this Synod.

A certified extract from the Minutes of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, at their Session, on the 17th of May last, was received, from which it appeared that the Rev. Robert B. E. M'Leod was appointed by that body a Commissioner to attend this meeting of Synod. The Rev.

Robert B. E. M'Leod appeared on the floor of Synod, and was invited to sit as a Commissioner from the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church.

Resolved, That the *Rev. C. Bork* and the *Rev. Dr. Milledoler* be, and they are hereby appointed as *Delegates* from this Synod, to meet the Synod of the Reformed German Church, to be convened at Hagerstown, in Maryland, on the first Sabbath of September next, and that the *Rev. C. D. Westbrook* and *Jacob I. Shultz* be their *secundi*.

Resolved, That the Rev. Brogan Hoff, as *primarius*, and Dr. Jacob Brodhead, as *secundus*, be, and they are hereby appointed Delegates to attend the next meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church in May, 1821.

The Delegates, appointed to attend the last meeting of the German Reformed Synod, made the following report:—

The undersigned, having been appointed Delegates at the last meeting of General Synod, to attend the meeting of the German Reformed Synod of North America, held at Lancaster in September last, respectfully report,—

That they fulfilled their appointment, and were most cordially received by their German Brethren;—that they were exceedingly gratified in observing the good order and harmony that prevailed in all their councils:—they have divided their Synod into eight Classical Assemblies, with power to transact all ecclesiastical business belonging to such Classes, within their respective districts, reserving to their Synod the power of licensing and ordaining Ministers. They contemplate, as soon as it can be effected, the organization of a Theological School.

They have also appointed a Committee of Missions, and manifest a zeal in the cause of Domestic Missions highly honourable to themselves, and useful to the Church.

Two Delegates were appointed to attend the present Session of this Synod.

A copy of their minutes have been laid on your table.

The next meeting of that Synod will be held in Hagarstown, in Maryland, on the last Sabbath of September next.

Your Delegates are of opinion, that the friendly intercourse, subsisting between the two Bodies, ought not only to be maintained, but also affectionately cherished.

All which is respectfully submitted.

PH. MILLEDOLER,
ISAAC LABAGH.

New-York, June 9, 1820.

The Delegate, appointed to attend the meeting of the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, made the following report:—

The undersigned, appointed to attend the last meeting of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, reported, that he had attended to the duty assigned him, and was received with great cordiality and affection.

DAVID PARKER.

The Committee on Correspondence reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:—

The Committee on Correspondence report to General Synod as follows:—

1st. That the Reverend the Delegates, from the German Reformed Synod, have presented a copy of the Minutes of the last meeting of that Reverend Body, which the Committee have inspected, and find to contain nothing that requires the particular attention of this Synod.

2d. That the Particular Synod of New-York have not complied with the resolution of the General Synod, adopted at their last meeting, directing them to continue their correspondence with the Synod of North Holland, because no answer has been received from that Body, to numerous letters and other communications addressed to them by the Judicatures of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America. The Committee also perceive, that the Particular Synod of New-

York, for the above reasons, recommend to General Synod to suspend, for the present, their correspondence with the Synod of North Holland.

Your Committee would suggest to Synod the following resolutions:

1st. That this Synod, deeply regretting the failure of their attempts to maintain a friendly intercourse with the Synod of North Holland, will discontinue those attempts, until they can be renewed with some prospect of success.

2d, That the Delegates, appointed by General Synod to attend the next meeting of the German Reformed Synod, be, and they hereby are, authorised to confer with any Committee, which that Reverend Body may hereafter appoint, on the subject of a union between the two Churches.

All which is respectfully submitted.

DAVID PARKER, *Chairman.*

The Committee, to whom was referred the communication from the Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, on the subject of a *union* of the Dutch and Associate Reformed Churches, made the following report, which was adopted:—

The Committee, on the communication from the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, submit the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church receive, with Christian affection, the overture of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, on the subject of a union.

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, Paschal N. Strong, and Cornelius C. Cuyler; and the Elders, Messrs. Henry Rutgers and Cornelius Heyer, be a Committee of Conference, on the part of this body.

Resolved, That the Conference be held in the city of New-York, on Tuesday, the 20th inst.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk notify the Commissioners respectively.

Mr. Cuyler having, for reasons which he stated, declined acting upon the above named Committee of Conference, the Rev. Dr. Livingston was appointed in his place.

ARTICLE VI.

Synodical Reports on the State of the Churches.

After a free conversation on the subject, at an hour previously appointed by Synod, the Committee on *the state of Religion* reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on the state of the Churches report:

That, from the Minutes of the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany, and from the free conversation on the state of religion, it appears—That the pure doctrines of the Gospel, as held by our standards, are generally maintained, and regularly and faithfully preached—that there is particular attention paid to the instruction of youth in the principles of our religion—that family visitation is faithfully attended to by many of our Ministers—that there is a very encouraging attendance upon public worship and other means of grace—that the number and influence of Prayer-Meetings and Bible-Classes have considerably increased—that family worship and other private duties are better observed than formerly—that there is an increasing attention to discipline—that the standard of piety is gradually rising—that professors of religion are walking more worthy of their vocation—that Christians of various denominations are more closely united in the kindly feelings of gospel good-will—that the monthly concert of public prayer is regularly observed in many congregations—that there is in a few places a more lively interest felt in behalf of Missionary and Bible Societies—that there are more earnest prayers and more liberal exertions made for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom at large—that the regular dispensation of the Gospel has a very perceptible influence upon the world in many places, to check their vices and their vain amusements—that during the last year a goodly number

of sinners have, to all appearance, become savingly converted —and that the general prospects of our Church are in many quarters very particularly encouraging.

From this general view it appears, that the Dutch Church was never in a more prosperous state in this country; that it never had brighter prospects; and, therefore, that its Members have never been more loudly called upon to observe and acknowledge, that the hand of God has been stretched out in their behalf.

It is particularly incumbent on us to notice the increased attention which is paid to family worship: this duty has heretofore been neglected to a very shameful degree in many of our congregations. It is pleasing to observe that an evident change for the better is now taking place. In some congregations two-thirds of the families of professors now regularly worship God morning and evening. In a few congregations the proportion is still greater; and in one, all the families of this description but two are entitled to this commendation.

It is also pleasing to observe, that Bible Classes are multiplying and attracting more general attention. It has been found by experience that this mode of instruction is peculiarly calculated to interest the minds of young people, and to induce the attendance of many who would turn away from other modes; and in many instances it has actually been productive of the happiest results. When we add to this the consideration, that by this method we draw instruction directly from the fountain of religious knowledge, which God himself has opened, we earnestly pray that these institutions may meet with still more extensive patronage.

Prayer meetings and family visitation, have also been remarkably blessed, and have given clear indications of God's presence with us. In attending to the latter duty, it has been found very useful for the Minister sometimes, to go unattended by an Elder, and to speak to the members of each family one by one. Such a mode of address, is peculiarly calculated to come home to every heart. There is no throwing it off upon others, or merging of one's self in a whole community, and thus escaping as an individual. There is a great point gained,

when you make the *individual* feel that religion is his own personal concern. It has also been found useful, to hold meetings expressly for the purpose of conversation and prayer, with such as are in any degree anxious about their spiritual state; or are willing to confess that they are seeking salvation.

Among the causes of gratulation on the state and prospects of the Church, your Committee distinctly recognise those frequent revivals of religion which are breaking forth in various parts of our land, and within our own borders; and in which, considerable numbers are in a short time brought from the darkness and thraldom of sin, into the light and glorious liberty of the children of God. When we hear of such things, we are powerfully reminded of the promise, "I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring;" and we are, before we are aware, thinking of those events of the day of Pentecost, which were the actual first fruits; and the earnest of that great harvest of souls which God shall gather to himself in the latter days. Considering these revivals in this connexion, they open a glorious field to our view, and place us under very special obligations to praise the Lord, and congratulate one another on what we are living to hear and see. If the angels in heaven feel such an interest in our concerns as to rejoice over a sinner when he is brought to repentance, should not we rejoice at the conversion of a multitude of our neighbours and brethren? Yes, let us "praise the Lord for his goodness and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

But, though "the Lord has done great things for us whereof we are glad," yet our joy is abated by the coldness and barrenness of many professors; by the unhappy distractions and keen animosities existing in one of our Classes; and especially by the awful fact, that to all appearance, a vast majority of the people of our several congregations are yet in an unconverted state; and therefore, under the curse of God and exposed to his eternal wrath. Their case is the more affecting, because they are brought very near to the kingdom of heaven; they are living within the call of the Saviour. But they *will* not

come to him that they may have life. Many are deaf to his call, and wholly indifferent to his admonitions. They have forgotten their Maker and neglect his service, though they have grown up under the means of grace, and have always dwelt in the midst of such as are living and faithful witnesses for God. Is not their case most awful and deplorable? Will it not be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for many who belong to our congregations and frequent our churches? Let us more faithfully and habitually view the case as it really is. Let us measure ourselves not so much by human judgment, as by the standard of divine truth; let us view our congregations in the light of God's word; and we shall see abundant reason to weep day and night over the slain of the daughters of Zion!! Let us pray, and preach, and act, and labour as if we were in earnest over this immense interest; and as if we really believed and felt, that we are fellow-workers with God, to save the souls of our people from destruction.

The Statistical Tables accompany this report.

The Committee have also prepared, and herewith present, certain resolutions connected with the state of the Churches, for the consideration of the Synod.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Committee,

PHILIP MILLEDOLER, Chairman.

Resolved, That all the Ministers of our Church be requested to set apart and observe one hour (from 11 till 12 o'clock, A. M. on Saturday,) in each week, for the purpose of praying in concert for the more copious effusion of the Spirit upon the ministry of reconciliation, and upon every other department of the Christian Church.

Resolved, That each Classis be requested to hold, at their stated meeting, immediately preceding the annual meeting of the General Synod, a free conversation on the state of religion in their congregations; and that on some day of such meeting, each Classis, as such, spend one hour in special prayer, in behalf of the interests of vital religion within our bounds.

Resolved, That the statistical reports of the state of our Churches be henceforth rendered once in three years.

Whereas serious divisions exist in one of the Classes within our bounds—and numbers of persons are still found in all of them who habitually neglect the great salvation—therefore,

Resolved, That the last Thursday of September be set apart and observed in all our Churches as a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer.

CLASSICAL REPORTS.

PARTICULAR SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

CLASSIS OF NEW-YORK.

CHURCHES.	*PASTORS.*	Census.		Communicants.							Baptised.	
		Number of Families.	*Total of the Congregation.*	*In communion per last Report.*	rec'd *On confession.*	rec'd *On certificate.*	*Dismissed.*	*Suspended.*	*Died.*	*Total now in communion.*	*Adults.*	*Infants.*
New-York	Dr. G.A. Kuypers, Dr. P.Milledoler, John Knox PaschalN.Strong	350	1750	930	29	11	40	3	11	909	2	120
Garden-street	J. M. Mathews	182	960	184	25	4	2			211	3	36
Brooklyn	Selah S. Woodhull	160	800	140	13	12	4		5	156	2	27
German Ref'd	Isaac Labagh	188	573	217	7	4			1	227		26
North West	Christian Bork	164	676	564	26	8	8		6	578	1	72
Greenwich	C. Hardenbergh											
Bloomingdale	Dr. Alex. Gunn			44	2		5		1	40	1	10
Haerlem	C. C. Vermeule	61			4	1	3		1	56	1	7
Tarry Town	Thomas G. Smith											
Cortlandt Town	Abraham Hoffman											
Fordham	John F. Jackson	40		25	2		1		1	26	1	13
Market-street	Has no Pastor											

Rev. Matthias Bruen and John H. Dreyer without charges.

CLASSIS OF NEW-BRUNSWICK.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Baptised.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last report.	rec'd On confession.	rec'd On certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
New-Brunswick												
Raritan	J. S. Vredenburgh	185		173	9	4	9		1	176	2	33
Six-Mile-Run	Dr. J. S. Cannon	152	850		17				2		5	25
Hillsborough	John L. Zabriskie	95			4	6	4			146	1	29
Bedminster												
Middletown & Freehold	Benjamin Dubois S. A. VanVranken	127	666							87		
Walpeck	James G. Force			44	1				3	42		23
Rockaway & Rockaway in	Jac. I. Schultz	64	442	45	33	5	5		3	75	4	54
Lebanon				22	42	10	4		1	69	9	49
Minising and Mahakemack	C. C. Eltinge											
Stillwater												

The Classis have under their care four candidates, viz. John T. Maybon, James Romeyn, John A. Smaltz, and Isaac A. Van Hook; and one Minister without a charge, viz. Cornelius Bogardus.

CLASSIS OF BERGEN.

Bergen	John Cornelison	165	670	220	11		1	1	7	223	3	31
Hackinsack	J. V. C. Romeyn											
Schraalenburgh	J. V. C. Romeyn											
Belville	S. Van Santvoord	102	610	79	8	2	3	1	2	83	2	21
E. Neighbourhood	C. T. Demarest											
Pompton	Jacob T. Field	143		63	7	1	3		1	68	1	31
Pompton Plains	Ava Neal	170	1100	113	4				1	118		16
Fairfield	Ava Neal	165	950	49	7	2				76	1	14
Ponds	John Demarest	147	725	100			2		2	96		26
Stonehouse Plains	No Pastor											
Montville	No Pastor				2							17
Preakness	No Pastor											
Newfoundland	No Pastor											

Rev. John Duryea and Rev. Peter Stryker, without charges.

CLASSIS OF PARAMUS.

No Report.

CLASSIS OF LONG-ISLAND.

The Classis of Long-Island presented no statistical table, but reported that the Rev. Walter Monteith, having accepted a call from the Presbyterian Church in Schenectady, has been dismissed by the Classis.

CLASSIS OF PHILADELPHIA.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Baptised.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last Report.	rec'd On confession.	rec'd On certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
1st Ref.D.Ch. of Philadelph.	Dr. J. Brodhead	280		437	33	6	10	5	5	455	9	25
1st Ref.D.Ch. in district of SpringGarden	Brogun Hoff	56			11	1	3	2	1	36	2	5
North Branch	P. Studdiford	225		170	10		2		2	176	1	
Harlingen	W. Smith	157		173	10	5			1	192	1	30
Shanack	P. Labagh											
North& South Hampton	Jacob Larzalere	120		70						70		20

The Rev. David Parker without a charge.

PARTICULAR SYNOD OF ALBANY.

CLASSIS OF ALBANY.

1st Ch. Albany	Dr.J. M. Bradford	200	1200	200	24	3	1	2	8	216	4	47
2d do. do.	John De Witt			198	21	4	3			218	4	21
Coxsackie	G. R. Livingston	210	1500	114	4	2			5	115	.	40
Bought		72	458	98	7	1				106	1	4
Washington& Gibbonsville	Robert Bronk	50	320	28	9	3				40	5	2
Amity and Niscayuna	Thos. Romeyn			167	9	8	4		3	177		54
Schenectady	J. Van Vechten				24	2			7		5	28
Coeymans &	S. Kissam	87	600		35				2		8	
Bethlehem		105	630	81	4	2				87		11
Basick	Vacant	120	610	31	4				1	36		4
Helderberg Salem and Jerusalem	H. Van Huysen											
2d Ch. Schenectady, and 1st Ch. 4th ward of do.	P. Van Zandt											
Glenville	Vacant											
Beaverdam	Vacant											

CLASSIS OF WASHINGTON.

Wynantskill	R. A. Westervelt	165	980		18	1		6		206		27
Schaghticoke	S. Ostrander	60	250	50	1				2	49	1	17
and Tyashoke		60	24	50						50		12
Saratoga	Philip Duryea	104		108	2	9	11		1	107	1	16
Argyle	Isa Y. Johnston	86	473	90	7		2	1		93		18
Waterford												
Union-Village												
Easton												
Johnsborough												

CLASSIS OF POUGHKEEPSIE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	Census.		Communicants.							Baptised.	
		Number of Families.	Total of the Congregation.	In communion per last Report.	rec'd On confession.	rec'd On certificate.	Dismissed.	Suspended.	Died.	Total now in communion.	Adults.	Infants.
Poughkeepsie	C. C. Cuyler	300	1900	313	5	5	2	3	4	314	1	15
N. Hackinsack	Thomas Dewitt	105	800	103	8					111	2	14
Hopewell		90	650	116	3	3	2	1	2	117	2	9
Rhinebeck	W. M'Murray	176	1000	144	15	6	5		3	157	3	42
St. Johns and	A. N. Kittle	83		91	6		2	1	2	92		17
Linlithgow		109		85	11		3		2	91	1	22
Kingston	John Gosman	230	1750	346	6	3	3	2	8	342	2	40
Fishkill	C. D. Westbrook											
Hyde-Park &	P. S. Wynkoop	67		35	1	2				38		2
PleasantPlain		26		17	4		2			19		
Greenbush & Tackhanack	H. Vedder	270		184	9					193		27

CLASSIS OF ULSTER.

Montgomery	Jesse Fonda	297	1360	307	37	10	10		3	341	4	65
New-Paltz &	W. R. Bogardus	207	1237	77	21	1	2		1	96	1	50
New-Hurley		155	900	66	6					72		43
Shawangunk	A. D. Wilson	240	1565		9	3	3		2	145		39
and New-Prospect		73	449		4	1				51		15
Rochester	J. Murphy	232	1624	74	3	2				79		
Warwarsing		153	1064	57	3	1				60		
and Clove		98	585	32	1					33		
Marbletown	J. H. Carle	200	1210	76	3					79		35
Hurley and		36	216	53						53		10
Ashokan		63	431	65	3			5		63		52
Flatbush	P. A. Overbagh				32					132	5	33
Saugerties	H'ry Ostrander	200	1200	161	17	5			2	181	2	33
Catskill	I. N. Wyckoff	185	1160		28	5	1		3	151		34
Woodstock		100	600							55		27
Esopus		150	750		31				3	67		
Mamakotting												
Bloomingdale												
Middletown												
Beaverdam												

ARTICLE VII.

Synodical Appeals.

The following appeal from the decision of the Particular Synod of Albany, in the case of the Rev. Mr. Palmer, was received.

"The undersigned acting on behalf of those who have remonstrated against the proceedings of the Classis of Montgomery, in the suspension of the Rev. S. Palmer, and of Mr. Palmer in particular, appeal from the decision of the Particular Synod, sustaining the decision of the Classis in that case, to the General Synod, at their next meeting to be held on the first Wednesday of June, in New-York, for the following reasons, viz.

"1st. Because Mr. Palmer had no citation to appear before the Classis, in order to answer to any specific charges which being substantiated, would render him a proper subject of discipline.

"2d. Because the Classis proceeded to try Mr. Palmer in his absence.

"3d. Because, on the face of the ex-parte testimony itself, considering the *ambiguity* of some expressions, the evident probability of the *misinterpretation* of some expressions which he may have used, and the fact that most, if not all, the witnesses were persons who, through feelings of opposition to Mr. Palmer, had petitioned the Consistories to apply for his discharge, for reasons which the Consistories had decided to be insufficient, and who may therefore be well supposed to have been so biassed as to give an incorrect representation of the meaning of Mr. Palmer in the matters testified against him, there does not appear satisfactory reason to conclude that Mr. Palmer ought to be suspended from the exercise of his ministerial functions.

JOHN C. TOLL,
ALBERT AMMERMAN."

Resolved, That this Synod do now proceed to consider the said appeal; and the Rev. Albert Ammerman having produced testimonials of his appointment by Mr. Palmer, was accredited as a commissioner to prosecute the said appeal.

Resolved, That all those members of the Classis of Montgomery, and of the Particular Synod of Albany, who have already voted on the subject under consideration, be excluded from the privilege of voting on it now.

The Minutes of the proceedings of a joint Committee of the Consistories of Union and New Harlaem, of the Classis of Montgomery, of the Particular Synod of Albany, in the case of Mr. Palmer, and other documents on the subject, were read.

The Synod then heard Mr. Ammerman in favour of the appeal, and also Mr. Van Horne, a member of the Particular Synod of Albany, from the Classis of Montgomery, in support of the decision of Classis and Particular Synod.

It was then moved and seconded, " *Resolved*, That the appeal from the decision of the Particular Synod of Albany before this Synod, be, and hereby is *sustained*."

The question being taken on the resolution, it was decided in the *affirmative*.

ARTICLE VIII.

Synodical References.

The Committee on Synodical Minutes reported, and their report was accepted, and is as follows:

The Committee on Synodical Minutes report—

That in the Minutes of the Synod of New-York, at their meeting in May last, they find reasons assigned for the suspension of the correspondence with the Synod of North Holland, referred to by General Synod at their meeting of June last. (Art. IV. Correspondence, see Minutes of Particular Synod, Art. III. page 6.)

Also a recommendation to their Delegates to General Synod, to endeavour to prevail with them to require the statistical accounts of the congregations to be given in once in three years, instead of annually.

In the Minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany, at their session in October last, they find a statement of the decisions of several Classes on the subject of an amendment to the Constitution of the Church. (See Art. IX. page 4.)

Also in the same article, a recommendation to abolish the Particular Synods, for certain reasons therein assigned.

They also report, that there is a manuscript copy of the Minutes of Particular Synod of Albany, at a special meeting on the 26th of April last, on an appeal from the Classis of Montgomery, in the case of the Rev. Mr. Conrad Ten Eyck, which contains an intimation to Synod of a design of Classis to appeal to General Synod from the decision of the Particular Synod.

Also a presentation of an appeal from the decision of said Synod to the General Synod, in the case of the Rev. Sylvanus Palmer.

The Committee beg leave to direct the special attention of Synod to said manuscript Minutes of the Particular Synod at their said extra meeting, herewith delivered.

All which is humbly submitted.

CHRISTIAN BORK, *Chairman.*

New-York, June 7th, 1820.

The first article of the above Report was referred to the Committee on Correspondence.

The second article, relating to Statistical Tables, was referred to the Committee on the state of Religion.

The third article, respecting the decisions of several Classes on the subject of an amendment to the Constitution of the Church, was referred to the Committee on the Professorate.

The fourth article, relating to the abolition of the Particular Synods, was referred to Messrs. Van Vechten, Sickles, and the Elder Van Deusen. (See Art. 8.)

The article respecting Mr. Ten Eyk's case, was recommitted to the same Committee, who made the following additional Report :—

The Committee on Synodical Minutes, having had recommitted to them so much of their report as relates to the case of the Rev. Conrad Ten Eyck, can only further say, that they find on the Minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany an intimation of a design to appeal from the decision of said Synod to the

General Synod; but whether there is such an appeal or not, does not appear. All of which is humbly submitted.

By order of the Committee,

CHRISTIAN BORK, *Chairman.*

ARTICLE IX.

Grievances.

The Committee on Gravamina report, that they find nothing on the subject of their appointment claiming the attention of this Synod.

ARTICLE X.

Church Government.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of abolishing the Particular Synods, made the following Report:—

The Committee to whom was referred so much of the Minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany as relates to the abolition of the Particular Synods, Report—

That they have instructed their Chairman to present for the consideration of this Synod, certain Resolutions on the subject.

By order,

J. VAN VECHTEN, *Chairman.*

Resolved, as the sense of this Synod, that, under existing circumstances, it is expedient to abolish the Particular Synods of New-York and Albany.

Resolved, that the several Classes be requested to concur in this measure; and that, when two thirds of the Classes shall have so concurred, then so much of the Constitution as relates to the establishment and regulation of the Particular Synods, shall be considered as annulled.

Resolved, that in this case, the Delegates to the General Synod shall be appointed by their respective Classes; and that all other authority, rights, privileges, duties, and responsibili-

ties of the Particular Synods, shall be transferred to the General Synod.

The question being taken on the first of the above resolutions, it was *lost.*

ARTICLE XI.

Doctrines and Morals.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XII.

Customs and Usages.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIII.

Schools, and Christian Education.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIV.

Queens College.

See the report of the Board of Corporation, Art. 4.

ARTICLE XV.

Professorate.

The Committee on the Professorate reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee on the Professorate, Report:—

That a full, and as they believe, a faithful account of the Theological College has already been exhibited, and is to be found in the reports of the Board of the Corporation of this Synod, and the Board of Superintendents. Your Committee therefore deem any further exhibition of the state of the said institution, and history of its concerns superfluous and unne-

cessary. With a view to bring those matters which seem manifestly to require the consideration and decision of the Synod directly before them, they would suggest the adoption of the following resolutions, viz. :—

Resolved, That it be, and hereby is enjoined on the Board of the Corporation of this Synod, to collect all moneys due from persons who have received, or may receive aid from the Theological Funds, and who have connected, or hereafter may connect themselves with other denominations, within the time specified in the order of Synod.

Resolved, That it be the duty of the Board of Superintendents, and the Professors, to require of applicants for admission into the Theological College, who do not produce a diploma, testimonials of such literary attainments as would entitle them to such diploma; also of the piety, gifts, and such qualifications as would give *reasonable* ground to hope that they are called of God to preach the Gospel.

Your Committee having taken into consideration the petition of Mr. Abraham Fort, which sets forth that the petitioner has studied Theology two years, with Professor Frælígh; that he labours under embarrassing circumstances, and therefore asks permission of this Synod to be admitted to examination for licensure; your Committee are of opinion that he ought to attend the Theological Seminary at New-Brunswick for at least one session previous to his examination for licensure. and would therefore respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolution, viz.

Resolved, That this Synod cannot grant permission to Mr. Abraham Fort to be examined for licensure, until he shall have prosecuted his theological studies at New-Brunswick for at least one session; and do accordingly commend him to the care and charity of the Board of Superintendents.

Whereas, the Consistory of the Church at Poughkeepsie have, by letters bearing date ————, recommended Richard D. Van Kleeck, who desires to become a Minister of the Lord Jesus, as a proper person to partake of the funds for the indigent; and the Consistory of the Church at English-Neighbourhood, also by letters, recommended Mr. Asa Ben-

nett, desirous of becoming a Minister, as a suitable person to derive benefit from the fund for the indigent ; and the Consistory of the Church at Rochester, also by letters, recommended Mr. Robert Loomis, desirous of becoming a Minister, as a suitable person to receive aid from the fund for the indigent—Therefore, your Committee respectfully suggest the adoption of the following Resolutions, viz.—

Resolved, That Richard D. Van Kleeck, Asa Bennett, and Robert Loomis, be, and hereby are recommended to the Trustees of Queens College, to receive assistance in completing their classical and theological studies.

In relation to the proposed alteration of the 40th Explanatory Article, your Committee have official information that the following Classes have agreed to the said alteration, viz.—From the Particular Synod of New-York ; the Classis of New-York ; Classis of Long Island ; from the Particular Synod of Albany ; the Classis of Albany ; and the Classis of Rensselaer. As to the remaining Classes, your Committee have received information from their Ministers, on the floor of Synod, that they have also agreed to the said alteration, viz. from the Classis of New-Brunswick ; the Classis of Philadelphia ; the Classis of Paramus ; Classis of Poughkeepsie. The Classes of Ulster and Bergen have objected, as your Committee have learned from Ministers on the floor. From the Classis of Montgomery, your Committee have received no information. The result is, that out of the twelve Classes belonging to this Synod, eight Classes have agreed to the proposed alteration. Your Committee therefore suggest the adoption of the following resolution : Whereas, a majority of the Classes have agreed to the proposed alteration—Therefore

Resolved, That the 40th Explanatory Article be so altered as to make it obligatory upon all Students in Theology, after they shall have completed their course of Study, to return to their respective Classes for examination and licensure, unless liberty be obtained from the Classis to which they belong, to be examined and licensed in some other Classis.

The Committee further report, that there are two vacancies

in the Board of Superintendents, and would recommend it to General Synod to fill said vacancies before the Synod adjourn.

SOLOMON FRÆLIGH, *Chairman.*
P. J. VAN PELT, *Clerk of Committee.*

The Synod proceeded to the election of two members of the Board of Superintendents of the Theological College, when Rev. James V. C. Romeyn, and Peter Labagh, were elected.

ARTICLE XVI.

Students in Theology.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVII.

Church Visitation.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Prevailing Sins.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIX.

Missions.

The Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler, agreeably to appointment, preached the Annual Missionary Sermon before the Synod, from Isa. 49. 6. on the evening of the 5th day of the session; when a collection was taken up for Missionary purposes.

The Rev. John Knox was appointed to preach the Annual Missionary Sermon at the next stated meeting of Synod, and the Rev. Jesse Fonda was appointed his *secundus.*

The Committee on Missions reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

To the Rev. General Synod.

The Committee on Missions beg leave to report,

That they have attended to the object of their appointment,

and regret to find, that very little Missionary labour has been performed under your auspices the past year. In this day, when Christians in every part of the world are awake to the interests of the Church of God, when efforts so uncommon and successful are making to enlarge the Redeemer's kingdom, we feel that we are too much behind our brethren in this good work, and that the cause of Zion is not prospered as it would be, were we more stirred up to duty.

Your Committee do not attach any blame to the standing Committee of Missions, for they were not furnished with the means necessary to carry on Missionary operations to any considerable extent beyond the little they have done. But all of us are called to be more awake to our duty as fellow-workers with Him who is King in Zion, and who is preparing for his universal reign.

In order to carry on the most effective operations in Missions, your Standing Committee needs in the first place, the requisite pecuniary means. They ought also to possess constantly the most accurate information respecting the various Missionary fields which demand their attention, and the concurrent prayers and exertions of all their brethren. We have indeed, great occasion to pray for enlargement of spirit that we may be more fitted for the commission of our Divine Master, saying, "*Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.*"

To furnish the Standing Committee with the means necessary to a system of well concerted and successful operations, we would recommend that the plan and resolutions digested and recommended by them in their report, be adopted, as follows:

1. That all the Classes within our bounds, be constituted Auxiliaries to General Synod in the cause of domestic Missions, and as such, furnish the Standing Committee with all the information in their power respecting the fields requiring Missionary labour and the particular circumstances of the same.

2. That they be directed at the first meeting of every Classis after the rising of General Synod, to take such prompt

and effectual measures to promote Missionary efforts, as they shall judge best.

3. That they be directed to request their Ministers and Consistories, to call the people over whom they preside, with renewed zeal, to the great duty of evangelizing the world; and especially, of supplying the famishing inhabitants of our frontier settlements with the Bread of Life.

4. That they be enjoined, as soon as possible after they shall have collected Missionary funds by contributions, public or private, or by any other means they may have devised, to pay the same to the Questors of Classes, and that it be by them transmitted to Mr. John I. Westervelt of New-York, Treasurer of the Committee of Missions.

5. That the Classes be directed to report to the Standing Committee of Missions annually, all their Missionary proceedings; the sums contributed for Missions by their congregations severally, and the congregations which do not contribute for this purpose; also that they report sufficiently seasonable to enable the Standing Committee to present to the General Synod, a complete view of all our Missionary transactions for the last year.

6. That the Committee of Missions be directed to report to General Synod, the sums annually received from each congregation, and that the same be published in the Minutes of General Synod, for the information of the Churches.

7. That a Special Committee be appointed, to draft a pastoral letter to the Churches under the care of this Synod, to awaken their zeal in the Missionary cause.

8. That the Trustees of General Synod, be directed to refund the sum taken by General Synod on loan from the Committee of Missions.

9. That the choice of Missionary stations be henceforth left to the discretion of the Committee of Missions.

All which is respectfully submitted by your Committee.

ANDREW YATES, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Isaac Labagh, Christian Bork, and John Cornelison; and the Elders,

Messrs. Richard Duryee, John I. Westervelt, Timothy Hutton, and Dr. Peter Wilson, be the Standing Committee of Missions.

ARTICLE XX.

Widow's Fund.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXI.

Particularia.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXII.

Pastoral Letter.

The Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler, David S. Bogart, and the Elder, Mr. A. G. Stor, were appointed a Special Committee, to draft a Pastoral Letter to the Churches, under the care of this Synod, to awaken their zeal in the Missionary cause.

The above-named Committee reported the following Pastoral Letter, which was adopted:

Brethren, beloved in the Lord,

Glorious promises are on record for the prosperity and glory of Zion. All her concerns are dear to her God. He will cause her to be built up, and make her children to flourish like the palm tree. The Lord has already done great things. Where Churches have been planted, he has blessed his word and ordinances to the conviction and conversion of sinners, and the strengthening and comforting of his people. He has thus lengthened the cords and strengthened the stakes of his heritage. He has done more—He has, within a few years, commissioned and sent forth to the perishing, many faithful and devoted servants. He has planted his standard in China, in India, in different parts of Africa, in the wilds of America, and in the islands of the sea. He has stirred up his

people to labour and pray for the advent of *that day when one shall say no more to another; know the Lord but when all shall know him, from the greatest even unto the least.* These glorious objects are to be effected by the agency of the Church and people of God, under the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit. This is beginning to be felt with uncommon weight by them. The different sections of the Church of God in this country have claimed a share in this work. Six establishments for evangelizing the world already exist among us:—"The American Board of Foreign Missions"—"The United Foreign Missionary Society"—"The Baptist Board"—The Moravian, and the Methodists—and last, though by no means least, the "American Bible Society." These are intended to send the bread of life to the perishing, and to cause the healing waters of the sanctuary to flow to all people. One of these, the Reformed Dutch Church, constitutes a part. We have connected ourselves as a denomination with "The United Foreign Missionary Society."

All the denominations in our country are also engaged in extending their bounds in this favoured land, by the truly Christian work of bearing the unsearchable riches of Christ to the destitute. In this work our Church has also borne a part: some of our Ministers have laboured individually in this field, and the Church has from time to time sent forth others. Much still remains to be done. Many districts of our country, more or less extensive, are yet in a destitute state, not only on our frontiers, but in the immediate vicinity of populous districts, and in the near neighbourhood, where Churches have been long established. These things ought to be so no longer. It is high time to awake. Our duty to God and to our fellow creatures requires that we should lay these things to heart, and *feel* and *do* more for the perishing. Our circumstances, as a Church, require that we should thus labour to extend and strengthen ourselves, and spread pure and undefiled religion. The opportunity will not long be afforded us at home. The ground will soon be occupied by others, and we shall be left to unavailing self-upbraidings and regrets. Better things however are hoped. The Lord has

richly watered us, and we, it is hoped, will soon water others. Much may be done by the faithful and liberal use of the means with which the Lord has blessed us. Let not the appeal be made in vain.

Your fathers and brethren, in General Synod assembled, have had the subject under serious and prayerful consideration. They have adopted a plan which will be sent to you; and for the execution of which your prayers and exertions are specially and earnestly solicited. Consider the subject attentively and prayerfully, and act accordingly. Remember what Jesus has done for you. Remember also the worth of immortal souls; and have compassion on them that are ready to die; and remember that they must die *soon*, unless they are rescued. Count it an honour to be fellow-workers with God, and be instant in season and out of season, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour will not be in vain in the Lord. And now, may the great Head of the Church multiply unto you grace, mercy, and peace. Amen.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Synodical Archives.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Resumption and Close.

The minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk publish 750 copies of the Minutes of this Synod, duly authenticated; and that he distribute among the Classes the number of copies directed by them.

ARTICLE XXV.

Adjournment.

Resolved, That this Synod will hold an adjourned meeting on the 18th of October next, at the city of Albany, then and there to take decisive steps in the case of the Rev. Conrad Ten Eyck, and the Classis of Montgomery; and to do whatever may be deemed necessary to suppress error, and advance the cause of truth and righteousness within the bounds of that Classis.

Resolved, That it be enjoined upon the Classis of Montgomery, to prosecute their appeal from the decision of the Particular Synod of Albany, at the adjourned meeting of this Synod, to be held on the 18th of October next, and that the Stated Clerk of General Synod give notice of this injunction to the Stated Clerk of the Classis of Montgomery, without delay.

Synod adjourned.

JAMES S. CANNON, *President.*
CORNELIUS C. CUYLER, *Adsessor.*
SAMUEL A. VAN VRANKEN, } *Clerks,*
JOHN GOSMAN, } *pro tempore.*

Official copy from the original Minutes,

JOHN KNOX, *Stated Clerk.*

THE

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL SYNOD

OF THE

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH,

IN

NORTH AMERICA,

AT

ALBANY, OCTOBER, 1826.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY GEORGE FORMAN, 201 FULTON-STREET

1826.

ACTS AND PROCEEDINGS

Of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, convened in the City of Albany, on Wednesday, the eighteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty. The Session continued from the eigthteenth day of October to the twenty-fifth, inclusive.

FORMATION OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE I.

Opening of Synod.

The Synod was opened with prayer by the President, the Rev. Dr. James S. Cannon.

ARTICLE II.

Members present.

FROM THE PARTICULAR SYNOD OF NEW-YORK.

1. *From the Classis of New-York.*

Rev. Dr. Philip Milledoler, Cornelius C. Vermeule, and Paschal N. Strong.
Elder, Mr. Abraham Child.

2. *From the Classis of Bergen.*

Rev. John Cornelison, and Cornelius T. Demarest.

3. *From the Classis of New-Brunswick.*

Rev. Dr. James S. Cannon.

4. *From the Classis of Paramus.*

Rev. Dr. Solomon Frælígh, and Wilhelmus Eltinge.

5. *From the Classis of Long-Island.*

Rev. Jacob Schoonmaker, Peter I. Van Pelt, and Dr. John Bassett.

6. *From the Classis of Philadelphia.*

Rev. Peter Labagh, and Brogun Hoff.

FROM THE PARTICULAR SYNOD OF ALBANY.

1. *From the Classis of Poughkeepsie.*

Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler; Cornelius D. Westbrook, and John Gosman.

2. *From the Classis of Albany.*

Rev. Dr. John M. Bradford, Jacob Van Vechten, and John Dewitt.*

Elders, Messrs. James V. S. Riley, John I. Ostrander,† and Abraham Van Dyke.

3. *From the Classis of Ulster.*

Rev. Isaac N. Wyckoff, and John H. Carle.‡

Elders, Messrs. James Oliver,‡ and Joel Dubois.§

4. *From the Classis of Rensselear.*

Rev. Jacob Sickles.

Elders, Messrs. Henry Van Dyke, Evert Van Alen, and Abraham L. Fonda.§

5. *From the Classis of Montgomery.*

Rev. John P. Spinner,‖ Abraham Van Horne, and David Devoe.

Elders, Messrs. Gloudy Van Deusen, and Peter Loucks.§

* Rev. Dr. Yates, the *primarious*, took his seat on the fourth day of the Session, and occupied it for a part of one day.

† Obtained leave of absence on the fourth day of the Session, and was succeeded by Mr. Christian Miller, his *secundus*.

‡ Obtained leave of absence on the sixth day of the Session.

§ Took their seats on the sixth day of the Session.

‖ Obtained leave of absence on the fourth day of the Session, and was succeeded by the Rev. Sylvanus Palmer, his *secundus*.

6. *From the Classis of Washington.*

Rev. Ralph A. Westervelt, Stephen Ostrander, and Philip Duryee.

Elders, Messrs. Moses Cowan, Frederic G. Berringer, and John Van Vechten.*

* Took his seat on the sixth day of the Session.

ARTICLE III.

Moderators.

Rev. Dr. James S. Cannon, President.
Rev. Cornelius C. Cuyler, Adsessor.
Rev. John Gosman, Clerk pro. tem.

ACTS OF SYNOD.

ARTICLE III.

Communications.

A communication was received from the Consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church of Montgomery, recommending Mr. Jacob C. Sears, who is desirous of prosecuting the study of Theology, as a suitable person to receive aid from the fund for the indigent; which communication was referred to the Board of Superintendants.

ARTICLE IV.

Board of Corporation.

The Board of Corporation made the following report, which was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Dewitt, Westbrook, Duryee, and Eltinge; and the Elders, Mr. Abraham Van Dyke and Dr. Oliver:

To the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church in North America, convened in the City of Albany, October, 1820.

The Board of the Corporation of Synod, deem it their duty to communicate some of their transactions since their appointment in June last, and to apprise the Synod of the present state of the matters then committed to their charge.

Immediately after the adjournment of the General Synod, the Corporation took measures to procure suitable agents for obtaining subscriptions to the Permanent Fund. These measures, they regret to state, have not been as successful as they could wish. Several individuals that had been selected as peculiarly qualified to act as agents in the districts assigned them, have altogether declined engaging in this work; and others who had been selected in their places, have also for various reasons declined—So that even yet there are some districts of the Church, for which no agents have been obtained. They are happy, however, to state, that those who have undertaken to procure subscriptions, have generally manifested great promptitude and diligence, and do richly merit the thanks of the Synod. But, notwithstanding all the zeal and activity of the agents that have been appointed, the Corporation feel constrained to apprise the Synod, that little success has, as yet, accompanied the efforts of those who have been already employed, and that from the representations of others who have partially commenced, the prospects of any *great* addition to the funds of Synod are by no means flattering.

The present state of the Treasury is indeed embarrassing and discouraging. Since the first of June last, there has been received the sum of only $ 635,82; while the expenditures during this period have amounted to $ 1496,91. There are not at present, funds in the Treasury to meet the current demands upon it—not even to pay the salaries of the Professors—and the salary of one of them has been for some time unpaid, in consequence of this deficiency. The Synod will therefore readily perceive the necessity of their employing the most prompt and efficient means to replenish their worse than exhausted Treasury, and of their *urging* on the Churches the most careful attention to the injunctions issued in June last. In compliance with their duty, the Board of the Corporation have distributed to every Consistory in the bounds of the Reformed Dutch Church, the Circulars which were directed to be sent, on the subject of the collections to be made throughout all

the congregations: and they would respectfully suggest to the General Synod, the importance of awakening and securing the attention of the Churches, particularly to the collection for the Theological College, and to the 9th resolution of Synod on the former report of this Corporation in June, (Minutes, p. 50.)

The Board of the Corporation have endeavoured faithfully to comply with the instructions of the General Synod, in relation to the Trustees of Queen's College. They met with that Board on the 25th and 26th of September, at New-Brunswick, when they received from them the following proposition—viz:

"*Resolved*, That the Funds in the hands of the Board of Trustees, belonging to the Professoral Fund, be loaned by this Board, to the Board of Corporation of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, on the condition, that the Board of Corporation, execute to this Board an instrument of writing, binding themselves to appropriate the proceeds of the said Fund, according to the agreement entered into between this Board and the General Synod in the year 1807, for the support of a Theological Seminary, in the City of New-Brunswick, in the State of New-Jersey. And in case the Theological Seminary be removed from the City of New-Brunswick, then, and in such case, the said Board of Corporation shall refund the principal so placed in their hands. And, further, the monies loaned to individuals by this Board, where they are considered safe, and the interest punctually paid, shall not be called in, in less than three years.—And upon the further condition, that an amicable arrangement can be effected on the subject of the $2212, 57 they claim from us."

To this proposition of the Board of Trustees, the Board of the Corporation resolved not to comply, and that for the following reasons:—

I. Because their proposition does not admit the right of control, claimed by the General Synod, and expressed in their minutes of June, 1820, p. 48. In relation to the monies and other property of the Professoral Fund, and on which this Board were expressly directed to *insist*.

II. Because their proposition is accompanied with conditions, with which this Board could not comply, and ought not to have complied. For,

1. This Board would thereby subject the General Synod to repay the whole monies loaned by the Trustees, when no provision was made by the Trustees for any losses on the Professoral Fund;

although while in the hands of the Corporation, it might be diminished by unavoidable accidents.

2. The Interest accumulated on the $2212, 57, as well as the principal itself, were to be relinquished, as will presently appear.—Whereas that Interest, (amounting to more than $1500) so accumulated is due to the Synod, as in consequence of its not being paid by the Trustees, the General Synod have been obliged to raise that amount, for the support of their Professors.

III. Because this Board could not admit the justness of the reasoning of the Trustees, in relation to the $2212, 57. Concerning this, the Board of Corporation received the following statement from the Trustees,—viz:

"Whereas the Board of Trustees, have expended the sum of $8000, on Lot and College Building, since 1813; and have heretofore expended the sum of, at least, $7000, in erecting and finishing the East Wing of the College Edifice. And, whereas, they have appropriated $1800 for the purchase of a Library, which said sums have been supplied by the Literary Fund of Queen's College. And as the said Edifice and Library have been, and are occupied for the exclusive benefit of the Theological Seminary in this place; and as the Funds in the possession of the General Synod are by the occupation of the Building and Library, exonerated from a portion of annual expenditures, with which they would otherwise be charged, this Board consider the balance of $2212, 57, heretofore charged to the Literary Fund paid, and overpaid."

To this statement, the Corporation could not accede, because the following are *facts*, in relation to this principal.

1. It is a fact, that the College Edifice has never been exclusively occupied for the Theological Seminary, the Western Wing of it, never having being occupied by a Professor of Synod, or for the use of Synod.

2. It is a fact, that the Synod in their agreement with the Trustees, were obligated to appropriate no more than would have been necessary to complete a separate Theological Hall, and the $3000 and $560, in lieu of interest thereon, which never has been received by the Synod, although declared to be allowed by the Trustees, would have been amply sufficient for that purpose: and, moreover, the sum allowed by the Synod, was admitted by the Trustees to be sufficient for that purpose, at the time the said appropriation was made.

3. Whatever use the Synod may have had of this Edifice, is not worth the interest on this appropriation of $3560: for while the Synod may be benefited by the Trustees for the use of the Eastern Wing of the College, to an annual amount of $200, and for the use of the Library not exceeding $50, and for the use of the Recitation Room $25, (equal to $275.) The Trustees are indebted to the Synod for the interest on the $3560, to the annual amount of $249, 20; and this sum, in a calculation, is to be considered as having been allowed some years before any use was made by the Synod of the College Building.

Thus the Trustees have no claim for any allowance, as they have received from the Synod an equivalent, for any advantage the Synod have possessed from the use of the Edifice; and as in the offer of the Board of Trustees, no reference was made to any such equivalent. And,

4. Independent of these facts, the proffer of the Edifice to the Theological Seminary was *entirely gratuitous* on the part of the Trustees; as in consequence of the suspension of the Literary Institution, the College Edifice was almost, if not altogether, useless: and, consequently, the Trustees have no claim for any allowance from the Synod for its use.

For these reasons, the Board of the Corporation did not accede to the proposition of the Board of Trustees.

Having resolved not to accept their proposal, the Corporation had another conference with that Board, and communicated their resolution not to accept their proposal, with the reasons therefor. After which, agreeably to the resolution of Synod, contained in their minutes of June, 1820, p. 48. This Corporation made such further efforts, as they thought calculated to induce the Trustees to admit the correctness of the opinion expressed by the Corporation in their last Report, as to the *right* of Synod in relation to the monies, and other property of the Professoral Fund. But *this right*, they utterly refused to admit. Whereupon, in pursuance of their instructions, this Corporation proposed to the Trustees to submit the matters in collision, to the Chancellors of the States of New-York and New-Jerey, as arbitrators;—when the following Resolution was passed by the Trustees, viz:—

" Whereas the Board of the Corporation have refused to accede to the conditions contained in the Resolution of the Board, offering to place the Professoral Fund in the hands of the Board of Corporation, passed Sept. 25, 1820.

Therefore, *Resolved*, That this Board, decline any further negotiation with the Board of Corporation, until the opinion of the General Synod be expressed in the said Resolution."

Whereupon the conference with the Trustees was closed.

The Corporation would conclude this communication, by stating, that if the General Synod agree with them in their views respecting the proposition of the Trustees, this Board, unless otherwise directed, will feel authorized and bound to proceed to execute the remaining instructions of Synod, as to the settlement of the matters in collision.

Signed by order of the Corporation.

PASCHAL N. STRONG, *Secretary.*

New-York, 11*th October*, 1820.

The Committee, to whom the preceding communication was referred, brought in a Report, which was accepted, and is as follows:

The Committee on the Report of the Board of Corporation of General Synod, and the communication from the Committee of the Board of Trustees of Queens College, beg leave to report, that they have not been able to discover in the documents before them, any substantial reason to induce this General Synod, to recede from their instructions given in June last, to their Board of Corporation.

JOHN DE WITT, *Chairman.*

The preceding report, and the documents upon which it is founded, were referred to a Special Committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Cuyler, Van Vechten, and Gosman, and the Elders, Messrs. Dubois and Binninger.

The Committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:—

The Committee, to whom was referred the communications from the Board of Corporation, and the Trustees of Queens College, report:—

That they consider the subjects committed to them as being of great importance to the Theological Schools, and therefore to the whole Church. The support of the Theological School has become very dear to our Zion, and her future welfare is intimately

connected with the prosperity of our School of the Prophets. We are officially informed, that our present means for supporting it are inadequate, and are in danger of becoming more so. Your Committee do not believe that the Church are yet willing to abandon this Institution, and hazard interests of so much importance as its continuance and prosperity. We hope it will long be a fountain from which the Great Head of the Church will cause streams to flow, which will fertilize the whole land. The Church, however, ought to be informed, that such results cannot be expected without strong efforts and general exertions. If these are not made immediately, we fear that the most unhappy consequences will result—consequences which we tremble to anticipate. The School must be abandoned. Our Churches should distinctly understand this, and be powerfully called to the help of the Lord in this work.

Your Committee also observe with pain, that differences of opinion exist between your Board of Corporation, and the Trustees of Queens College. The Board of Corporation have laboured to adjust with the Trustees claims which we hold against them, pursuant to directions given by General Synod at its meeting in June last, in which they have not been successful. The prosecution of this object has given rise to measures on the part of the Board of Trustees, which your Committee consider as jeopardizing the validity of the contract entered into in 1807, between General Synod and the said Trustees. Both the acting parties, however, appear to desire the interference of this body. This body, therefore, ought to act immediately and efficiently in the premises, to prevent any evil consequences which may result from collision. With this view they have ordered their Chairman to offer the following Resolutions, for the consideration of Synod. All which is respectfully submitted.

COR. C. CUYLER, *Chairman.*

1. *Resolved*, That every Minister belonging to the Reformed Dutch Church, notify his people from the pulpit, on the Sabbath immediately preceding the collections for the Theological Seminary, that unless immediate and efficient aid be furnished by the Churches, we shall soon be obliged to abandon our Theological School, and press upon them the importance of attending to the subject.

2. *Resolved*, That we hope and believe that the piety and zeal of our Church will not suffer so important an object to be abandoned, while they have it abundantly in their power to prevent it.

3. *Whereas*, The Board of Trustees of Queens College, at a meeting held on the 26th of September last, did direct their Treasurer to charge the sum of $2212, 57, with the interest thereon, to the Professoral Fund, and to discharge the Literary Fund therefrom. Therefore,

Resolved, That this Synod disapprove of the said act of the Trustees of Queens College, and hold the Trustees responsible for this principal and the interest thereon.

4. *Resolved*, That the Board of Corporation be empowered, in their discretion, to receive, on liberal terms, from the Trustees, books or other property in payment of the above debt.

5. *Resolved*, That the Board of Corporation, be authorized to receive and hold from the Trustees of Queens College, the Funds belonging to the Professoral Fund, upon such terms as are consistent with the rights of Synod.

6. *Resolved*, That the Board of Corporation be instructed to renew, if they think it necessary, their overtures to the Trustees of Queens College, and to prosecute, at their discretion, such further measures as may be contained in their former instructions.

Which Resolutions were adopted.

The following Resolution was also submitted.

" *Resolved*, That the Board of Corporation be requested to explsin to General Synod, the causes of the present deficiency in the state of our Funds, so different from the statement to General Synod, by the Committee of Digest, in 1818 "

The consideration of the above Resolution, was indefinitely postponed.

The door-keeper's bill, and a bill of expense incurred by sending expresses for Elders, together amounting to $22, 55, were ordered to be paid by the Treasurer of Synod.

ARTICLE V.

Correspondence.

The Committee appointed by Synod to confer with a Committee of the Associate Reformed Church, on the subject of an union of the two Churches, made the following report, which was referred to a Special Committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Gosman, Sickles, and Labagh; and the Elders, Mr. Cowan, and Dr. Van Dyke.

The Commissioners, appointed by the Associate Reformed Church, and the Reformed Dutch Church, to confer on the subject of an union between the two Churches, met in the City of New-York, on Tuesday the 20th June, 1820, and having maturely considered the matter submitted to them, are of opinion, that an union may be safely and profitably effected upon the following general principles:

1. The two Churches to be united under the style and title of "the Reformed Protestant Church in North America."

2. The Confessions of Faith and Catechisms are acknowledged to be equally pure, and may either of them be used by Churches or individuals, at option.

3. The government of the Church shall be administered by Consistories, Classes, and Synods.

4. The worship of the Church shall be conducted in the order heretofore in use in either of the Churches, at the option of the congregation.

5. The old version of the Psalms, commonly called the Scots Version, or the Psalms and Hymns authorised in the Dutch Church, shall be used according to the preference of each particular congregation.

6. The usages and customs of the Churches shall be left free, and not be meddled with in any thing which does not clash with general edification.

7. The Theological Seminaries of the two Churches ought to be consolidated.

8. A Committee from each General Synod shall be appointed to prepare from the different books of government and discipline of the two Churches, a system for their common regulation; care being taken to admit as few alterations as may be compatible with their actual circumstances.

J. M. BRADFORD,
PASCHAL N. STRONG,
J. H. LIVINGSTON,
HENRY RUTGERS,
CORNELIUS HEYER.

JOHN M. MASON,
ROBERT B. E. M'LEOD,
PETER M'CARTEE,
SILAS E. WEIR,

The Committee, to whom the preceding document was referred, reported, and their report was *adopted*, and is as follows:

The Committee to whom was referred the proposals of a union between the Associate Reformed Church and the Reformed Dutch Church, as adopted by the Commissioners appointed by the respective Synods, beg leave to report,

That they have considered the subject referred to them, and view it as a measure intimately connected with the peace and future prosperity of the Church. Whatever has a tendency to unite the efforts of the Church of God, glorifies the Redeemer, and is therefore an object of great importance.

As to the advantages which may result from the proposed union, from the consideration that there is a cordial agreement in the doctrines of the gospel of Christ, and a disposition has been evinced to yield minor differences, and that by combining the resources of the two denominations, additional means might be furnished for the extension of our boundary, and thus a weight given us in the christian Church, which, in a detached state, we do not possess; however important in a decision on the terms of union; your Committee do not deem it proper to express any opinion: viewing it as a matter of deep interest to the Churches, they submit to Synod the following resolution:

Resolved, That the terms of union as agreed upon between the Commissioners of the Reformed Dutch Church and the Associate Reformed Church, be transmitted to the Classes under the jurisdiction of this Synod, for their consideration and approbation, and that they report to the next ordinary meeting of the General Synod.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN GOSMAN, *Chairman.*

The Committee appointed in June last, on the subject of a complaint made by certain members of the Associate Reformed Church of Bloomingburgh, against the conduct of the Classis of Ulster, in organizing a Dutch Church within their bounds, made the following report, which was accepted:

The Committee to whom were referred certain papers, transmitted by the Stated Clerk of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, to this Synod, containing a complaint against the Classis of Ulster, for organizing a Church within the bounds of a congregation at Bloomingburgh belonging to the Associate Reformed Synod, and certain documents laid on the table of Synod by the Classis of Ulster, beg leave to report,

That on examining the documents put in their hands, they have found nothing in the conduct of the Classis of Ulster which furnishes a reasonable ground of complaint against them, inasmuch as the persons forming the congregation which has been organized by the said Classis never considered themselves as permanently connected with the Associate Reformed Church.

Your Committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, That this Synod do not see that the Associate Reformed Church of Bloomingburgh have been aggrieved by the conduct of the Classis of Ulster, of which they complain, and therefore can do nothing in the premises.

Resolved further, That the Stated Clerk of this Synod transmit to the Clerk of the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Church, a copy of the above report.

Respectfully submitted.

J. SICKLES, *Chairman.*

Resolved, That the above report be recommitted to the same Committee, with a view that they insert in their report a full statement of the important facts on which the Synod are to found their decision, and that the committee report to Synod at its next stated meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

Synodical Reports on the State of the Churches.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE VII.

Synodical Appeals.

The following appeal from the decision, of the Particular Synod of Albany, confirming the suspension of Messrs. Jones and Amerman, by the Classis of Montgomery, was received.

The undersigned appeal from the decision of the Particular Synod of Albany, confirming the act of the Classis of Montgomery, from which they had appealed, suspending them from the exercise of their ministerial functions, to the General Synod, at their adjourned meeting, in Albany, on the 18th inst. for the following reason:—

The Act of the Synod is grounded on the report of a committee, appointed to confer with the undersigned, purporting that they "persist in the opinion that their insubordination to the Classis is justifiable." Though they consider themselves bound to the observance of order, as warranted by the word of God, they do believe that that course of conduct which is censured under the name of insubordination, is justifiable, for reasons already submitted to the Particular Synod, viz:—that the standing of those acting as the Classis of Montgomery, has been so impaired by their open avowal of heresy, with which the undersigned do consider that the Particular Synod, has virtually charged them, that they, the undersigned, could not meet them, while they had no such constitutional control, as would enable them in meeting with them to discharge their duty towards them in the way of discipline.

NICH. JONES,
ALBERT AMERMAN.

Rev. Messrs. Bronk and Fonda, and the Elders, Messrs. Riley and De Ridder, appeared to defend the decision of the Particular Synod of Albany.

Messrs. Jones and Amerman, having declared themselves ready to prosecute their appeal:

Resolved, That this Synod do now proceed to consider the said appeal.

The Synod then heard Messrs. Jones and Amerman, in favour of the appeal—

They also heard the Commissioners of the Particular Synod of Albany, in favour of the decision of said Synod.

Synod then *Resolved*, That the Representatives from the Classis of Montgomery, and such Members of this Synod from the Particular Synod of Albany, as have already voted upon the case of the Rev. Messrs. Jones and Amerman, be, and hereby are excluded from voting on it now.

The following Resolution was then adopted: viz:—

Resolved, That the decision of the Particular Synod of Albany, in the case of Messrs. Jones and Amerman, in the matter of their appeal, from the decision of the Classis of Montgomery, is *affirmed*.

Synod also adopted the following:

Whereas, The suspension of Messrs. Jones and Amerman is founded by the Classis of Montgomery, on their denial of the authority of said Classis, and on their withdrawment from its

Ecclesiastical jurisdiction; and that sentence has been confirmed on those grounds, by the Particular Synod of Albany, and by this General Synod.

Resolved, That these Brethren, be, and they hereby are directed to return to said Classis, to acknowledge the irregularity of their conduct in the points aforesaid, and return to their duty, and the good order of our Churches.

Resolved also, That on their compliance with this direction, said Classis be, and they hereby are enjoined, to restore said Brethren to their former good standing among them.

ARTICLE VIII.

Synodical References.

The minutes of the proceedings of the Particular Synod of Albany, at their meeting of October, instant, having been laid upon the table of Synod, were referred to a special Committee, consisting of the Rev. Messrs. Cuyler, Westervelt, and Ostrander, who presented the following report:—

The Committee, on the minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany, report,

That they find on the minutes of said Synod, the following particulars, which they deem necessary to be attended to by General Synod at its present session.

1. The case of the Rev. C. Ten Eick, in the following words, viz:

"That in conformity with an injunction of the Particular Synod, making it the duty of the Classis of Montgomery, to labour with the Rev. Conrad Ten Eick, and endeavour to convince him of his errors. He has been written unto by some of the Ministers of said Classis, to which he returned an answer in the following words: 'It is the wish of my friends to have my views of the atonement, as it respects the electing decree of God. I can give it in a few words. Although, I believe, the atonement of Christ to be an expedient devised by infinite wisdom, and fully sufficient, as to its merits to save the whole of the human race, did it comport with the will of God; still, I believe, that not one of the human family will be savingly benefited by that atonement, but those who were given to the Son from all eternity. I as firmly believe, that there is an election of grace, and that they only will be saved, and none but these, as I believe any truth in the Bible.

I also believe, that not one of the non-elect, do perish in consequence of any defect in the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross, or of any want of sincerity of God in the offer; but wholly on account of their obstinate rejection of the mercy offered. Hence, I believe, that the perfect sacrifice of Christ is the grand foundation upon which the offer of salvation is indiscriminately made to all, wherever the gospel comes; the application of its benefits to the hearts and consciences of sinners, is the sovereign act of God.'

(SIGNED) CONRAD TEN EICK.

The subject in relation to C. Ten Eick, was committed to A. N. Kittle, Dr. Yates, and N. J. Marselus.

The Committee, in relation to C. Ten Eick's case, reported the following, which was unanimously adopted.

Whereas, The Classis of Montgomery, in pursuance of the direction of the Particular Synod, have dealt with the Rev. Conrad Ten Eick, relative to his sentiments on the subject of the atonement, and have received an answer from him explanatory of his views, and satisfactory to them. Therefore,

Resolved unanimously, That while this Synod view the explanations of the Rev. Mr. C. Ten Eick as perfectly consistent with the word of God, and the excellent standards of our Church, they do at the same time declare their conviction, that many expressions in Mr. Ten Eick's defence are loose and equivocal, and recommend to Mr. Ten Eick to be more cautious and circumspect in the use of language on that important subject.

A. N. KITTLE,
AND. YATES. } *Committee.*"
N. J. MARSELUS.

2. The case of the Rev. Messrs. Nicholas Jones, and Albert Amerman, in the following words, viz:—

" The suspension of the Rev. Nicholas Jones, on which subject, the following record appeared on the minutes of Classis.

Rev. Nicholas Jones appeared on the floor of Classis. The President asked him who was his Elder, delegated to attend this meeting with him? He replied, he had none. He was then asked, why he had none? He replied, that he did not feel himself bound to answer any questions put to him by the President, unless that he was authorised to ask them by the Classis; and that he was not

disposed to answer any questions of the chair on the subject. He was then asked the reasons of his delinquency in not attending the meetings of Classis? He stated, that he did not appear here as a member of this Body—that he did not consider any of the persons who voted in favour of Ten Eick's defence, as members of the Classis of Montgomery, and that he would not recognize them as christian brethren—that he could not sing with them, pray with them, nor preach with them; and that he did not worship the same God they worshipped—and that he still abides by the resolution which he signed, contained in the remonstrance which appeared before Particular Synod in April, 1820.

After due deliberation, and prayer to God for direction, the following Resolution was passed:

Resolved unanimously, That the Rev. Nicholas Jones, be, and hereby is suspended from the exercise of his ministerial functions, for contumacy manifested at this time, and for insubordination to the authority of this Classis, until he make satisfaction to this Body.

Mr. Jones appealed from this decision in the following words:

The undersigned appeals from the decision of the Classis of Montgomery, suspending him from the exercise of his ministerial functions, to the Particular Synod of Albany at their next meeting in Schenectady, on the second Wednesday in October, for the following reasons:

He has conscientiously abstained from attending the meetings of Classis since their avowal of heretical sentiments at Owasco, because he has not felt at liberty to acknowledge the good standing of those composing the majority on that occasion. He cordially acquiesces in the solemn condemnation of those sentiments by the last Particular Synod, as contrary to the word of God, and the standards of the Church, and can not believe that his suspension by men who deny the truth in Jesus, for his conscientious opposition to them, is the decision of the Head of the Church, depriving him of his commission.

(SIGNED) NICHOLAS JONES.

The suspension of the Rev. Albert Amerman, on which the following record appeared on the minutes of the Classis of Montgemery:

The Rev. Albert Amerman appearing on the floor of Classis, was called upon to answer for his delinquency, and for his insubordination to the authority of Classis. He stated that he did not attend here as a member of this Body, and he could not, in conscience, sit with them and recognize them as *christian brethren—that he viewed them as Arminians, and holding damnable doctrines*—and therefore he had absented himself from their former meetings, and now refused to sit with them. He stated also, that he had not been cited to appear here, and therefore thought he was not bound to make a defence for his insubordination. Whereupon,

Resolved, That Storm S. Becker and Peter Striker, be a committee to labour with Mr. Amerman, and report to Classis to-morrow morning.

Report of Committee.

The Committee appointed to labour with Mr. Amerman, report:

That they have attended to the duty assigned them, and beg leave to state, that Mr. Amerman declared that he would continue in the course he has commenced, and that he thought it his duty to come out from this Body, and were he cut off by Classis, that act of Classis would only sanction his own act.

(SIGNED)
STORM S. BECKER,
PETER STRIKER.

After a due deliberation of the case, the following Resolution passed unanimously:

Resolved, That the Rev. Albert Amerman, be, and hereby is suspended from the exercise of his ministerial functions, until he make satisfaction to this Classis.

Mr. Amerman appealed from the above decision in the following words:

The undersigned, appeals from the decision of the Classis of Montgomery, suspending him from his ministerial functions, to the Particular Synod of Albany, at their next meeting in Schenectady, on the second Wednesday of October, for the following reasons:

He has acted conscientiously in refusing to attend the meetings of Classis since the meeting at Owasco, because he has not felt at liberty to acknowledge the good standing of those who have advocated the sentiments contained in the defence of Conrad Ten Eick; and whereas the Particular Synod have solemnly condemned those sentiments, as contrary to the word of God and the standards of the Church, and the undersigned is fully persuaded that said decision was scriptural, he cannot believe that the decision of men, who publicly deny the truth in Jesus, suspending him for his conscientious opposition to them in their denial of that truth, is the voice of his master, calling him to lay down his commission.

(SIGNED) ALBERT AMERMAN.

The appeals of Messrs. Jones and Amerman, in relation to a decision of the Classis of Montgomery on their case, was committed to Dr. Yates, Messrs. Johnson and Bronk, and the Elders, De Ridder and Shults.

The Committee on the appeals of the Rev. Mr. Jones, and the Rev. Mr. Amerman, from the decision of the Classis of Montgomery in their case, reported:

" That they have attended to the duties assigned them, and are sorry to state, that after a friendly and free conversation on the subject, together with expostulations, shewing the disorganizing and ruinous tendency of the principle they have assumed, these gentlemen persisted in the opinion, that their insubordination to the Classis is justifiable, any rules of Church government in our Constitution to the contrary notwithstanding."

On the subject of the appeals, they offered the following Resolution, which was adopted:

Whereas the ground on which the Rev. Messrs. Jones and Amerman rest their appeals, are considered as untenable, and subversive of all regular Church order, government, and discipline.

Therefore resolved, That their appeal be not sustained, and that they stand accordingly suspended from the exercise of their ministerial offices.

A. YATES, *Chairman.*

("From the above decision, Messrs. Jones and Amerman have appealed.

Messrs. Bronk, Johnston, and Fonda, with the Elders, Riley, and De Ridder, were appointed to defend the decision of this Synod before General Synod.")

3. The case of the Rev. Henry V. Wyckoff, in the following words, viz:

"A suspension of the Rev. Henry V. Wyckoff, in the following words:—*Resolved*, For the above reasons, that the Rev. Henry V. Wyckoff be suspended for contumacy and contempt, from the exercise of his ministerial functions, until he give ample satisfaction to this Classis."

4. In the case of the Rev. Sylvanus Palmer:

"A petition from the Classis of Montgomery to General Synod, through the medium of the Particular Synod, for a re-hearing in the case of Sylvanus Palmer, because they believe that General Synod have not had the whole of the facts in reference to the case before them."

All which is respectfully submitted.

CORNELIUS C. CUYLER, *Chairman.*

The first paragraph of the above report, relating to the case of the Rev. C. Ten Eick, was committed to the Rev. Messrs. Van Pelt, Cuyler, Eltinge, Hoff, Cornelison, and Westbrook.

The Rev. Messrs. Winslow, Page, J. R. Hasbrouck, and J. F. Schemerhorn, presented a certificate of their appointment as commissioners, to appear in behalf of the Classis of Montgomery in all such matters as relates to the difficulties in said Classis, which may come before General Synod.

The Stated Clerk of Synod reported, that he had notified the Stated Clerk of the Classis of Montgomery, of the injunction of Synod upon the Classis of Montgomery, to prosecute their appeal from the decision of the Particular Synod of Albany, in the case of Mr. Ten Eick, at the present meeting of this Synod.

The Commissioners from the Classis of Montgomery, being called upon to prosecute their appeal; declared that they have relinquished the appeal, and assigned the reasons.

The Committee in the case of Mr. Ten Eick, brought in the following report:—

The Committee, to whom was referred, that part of the minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany, which relates to the case of the Rev. C. Ten Eick, report:

That it appears, from said minutes, that individual Ministers, belonging to the Classis of Montgomery, have written to him on the subject of his doctrinal sentiments, to which he has replied; which reply is recorded both on the minutes of the Classis of Montgomery, and the Synod of Albany. That both the Classis of Montgomery, and the Synod of Albany, have decided, that his explanations are conformable to the word of God, and the standards of this Church, and satisfactory to them; and that the decisions of both Bodies, are at variance with their decisions on recent former occasions. Your Committee, consider the late decision of the Classis of Montgomery, to be a mere modification of their decision, when Mr. Ten Eick was tried, and the late decision of the Synod of Albany to be subversive of their decision, at their special meeting in April last. They deem the late decisions of both Bodies, to be contrary to the word of God, and the standards of this Church; and have directed their Chairman, to offer for the consideration of Synod, the following Resolutions. All which is respectfully submitted.

P. I. VAN PELT, *Chairman.*

Resolved, 1. That the late decision of the Particular Synod of Albany, on the case of the Rev. Conrad Ten Eick, as it respects the charges preferred against him, is to this Synod *unsatisfactory;* and if regarded as a measure calculated to remove the suspicions against him, the said Mr. Conrad Ten Eick, altogether insufficient.

2. That the word of God, and the standards of this Church, teach us, that the Lord Jesus Christ died as an atoning sacrifice only for those whom the Father has given him, for whom in the divine love and wisdom he became the substituted victim.

3. *Resolved*, That Mr. Ten Eick's former opinions, as on the subject of the atonement contained in his printed defence, meet our decided disapprobation.

4. *Resolved*, That Mr. Ten Eick, be now called upon to give such satisfaction to this Body, if in his power, as may remove the difficulties which exist in his case.

The first resolution in the above report was adopted. The second resolution was ordered to lie on the table; and the *fourth* resolution was taken up.—When it was *Resolved*, That the President of Synod, Dr. Frælígh, Mr. Sickles, and Dr. Milledoler, be a Committee, to prepare written questions, to be proposed to Mr. Ten Eick, by Synod.

The Committee reported the following, which was adopted.

Your Committee, appointed to draw up a number of questions, to be proposed to the Rev. C. Ten Eick, with a view to ascertain clearly, his sentiments in relation to important doctrines of the gospel, beg leave to submit the following :—

1. Has Christ made atonement for the Elect, and for them only?

2. Did Christ only die for sin, so as to make it possible and consistent for God to extend mercy to the Elect; or did he die in their law-place, and stead, as a substitute for their persons?

3. Does the atonement signify any thing more or less, than complete reconciliation? and is that reconciliation made equally for all mankind?

4. Does the atonement, as such, extend to all to whom the gospel is preached?

5. Do you acknowledge, that the sin of Adam is so imputed to our race, as to include all men under guilt and condemnation; and that the righteousness of Christ, imputed to the Elect, is the only ground of their justification before God?

6. If, as you have said, God cannot be sincere in the general offers of the gospel, if a definite atonement be admitted, how can he be sincere in the general offers of the gospel, if the doctrine of Election be admitted?

JAMES. S. CANNON, *Chairman.*

The above interrogatories, being put into the hands of Mr. Ten Eick, he returned the following answers, in writing:—

Question 1. Has Christ made atonement for the elect, and for them only?

Answer. Christ has died for the elect only, as it respects their everlasting salvation, but the non-elect do receive some temporal blessings, as flowing from the sacrifice of Christ.

2. Did Christ only die for sin, so as to make it possible and consistent for God to extend mercy to the elect; or did he die in their law-place and stead, as a substitute for their persons?

Answer. The evil nature of sin rendered an atonement necessary; without an atonement it would be impossible and inconsistent for God to extend mercy to any of the human family, but that he obeyed the law, and suffered the curse in the room and stead of his people, so that in virtue of his atoning sacrifice, he has procured for the elect, faith, and every saving benefit.

3. Does the atonement signify any thing more or less than complete reconciliation; and is that reconciliation made equally for all mankind?

Answer. I view the atonement and reconciliation as two distinct things; atonement removes the obstacles in the way of the sinner's salvation, arising from the character of God, and the broken law. Reconciliation is one of the benefits, which the elect believer receives through the atonement, and arises from the covenant of the Father to the Son, that his people shall be willing in the day of his power.

4. Does the atonement as such extend to all to whom the gospel is preached?

Answer. I believe, that the atonement, in itself considered, separate from the purpose of God, is absolutely sufficient for the salvation of the whole world, and on this sufficiency is founded the command; go and preach the gospel to every creature; and, therefore, it is the duty of every man, where the gospel comes, to believe, and for unbelief they are justly condemned, and not for the want of sufficiency in the sacrifice of Christ, but viewing the atonement as it respects the purpose of God, it is limited to those only who shall receive the Lord Jesus Christ, by a living faith.

5. Do you acknowledge the sin of Adam is so imputed to our race, as to include all men under guilt and condemnation; and, that the righteousness of Christ imputed to the elect, is the only ground of their justification before God?

Answer. I believe this doctrine with my whole heart.

The following additional question was put to Mr. Ten Eick, to which he made the subjoined reply.

Question. How do you reconcile temporal blessings to the non-elect, as proceeding from the atonement, with indefinite atonement?

Answer. The following view of Witsius meets my views, and I think will give satisfaction to Synod.

"The suretyship and satisfaction of Christ, have also been the occasion of much good to the reprobate. For it is owing to the death of Christ, that the gospel is preached to every creature; that gross idolatry is abolished in many parts of the world; that hellish impiety is much restrained by the discipline of the word of God; that they obtain many and excellent, though not saving gifts of the Holy Spirit; that they have escaped the pollutions of the world, through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: and, who, in short, can enumerate all those blessings which they enjoy, not by accident only, beside the intention of God and Christ, but by the determinate purpose of God." Vol. 1. p. 329.

If this is not satisfactory, I would observe, that fallen angels have no respite from misery—no day of grace—no offers of salvation—no temporal enjoyment—but are reserved under chains of darkness, &c. But through the atonement, the human family enjoy these blessings.

Synod then resolved to proceed to the consideration of the several answers given by Mr. Ten Eick to the questions of Synod. Whereupon it was

Resolved 1. That the answer given by Mr. Ten Eick to the *first* question, is approved.

2. That the *second* answer of Mr. Ten Eick, is *unsatisfactory*, because the question proposed therein, is not explicitly met.

3. That the answer to the *third* question is *not* satisfactory, because it is not explicit.

4. That the answer to the *fourth* question, be deemed not satisfactory, because it is not explicit.

5. That the answer to the *fifth* question, is satisfactory.

Resolved, That the above decisions be put into the hands of Mr. Ten Eick, and that he be, and hereby is requested to give more clear and definite answers to those questions which are declared to be unsatisfactory.

The preceding Resolution being carried into effect, Mr. Ten Eick presented the following explanations:

In my answer to the second question, I did not mean to convey the idea that Christ died for sin in the abstract, but that the evil nature of sin rendered an atonement indispensably necessary, and that without such an atonement, it was impossible for God to extend mercy, even to the elect. By the words, he obeyed in the room and stead of his people; I meant, and do mean to convey the idea of substitution; which doctrine I fully believe.

In the third answer, I mean to be understood distinctly to say, I do not view atonement and reconciliation the same, for the reasons already given. But if this Synod view them as one and the same thing, I can truly affirm, that reconciliation is not equally made for all, for then all would be saved, if they were all reconciled.

In the fourth answer, I viewed the words as such in the question to have reference to the nature of the atonement, in itself considered, and as such, I answered it, I believe, correctly. By the words, separate from the purpose of God, in the first part of the answer, I mean the same as is in the last part of the answer, and both to have reference to the design of God, as to whom he will save by the atonement. The sufficiency of the atonement, I conceive arises from the dignity of Christ's character, as God and man, and the virtue and infinite value of his sufferings. In my answer to this question, I had reference particularly to the Cannons of the Synod of Dort, which fully meet my views on the subject of atonement.

In the sixth answer, I do not intend to convey the idea that any ever will be saved beside the elect; but I also mean to convey the idea, that there is no other impossibility but such as arises from their corruption and their total depravity, which prevents their salvation. When I say God is under no obligation to save a single sinner, I mean that salvation is of free grace to the sinner, and whatever claims the Son may have on the Father, to the reward promised him, we, as sinners, must approach the throne of grace not as claimants, but as suppliants: "God be merciful to me a sinner."

Whereupon Resolved, That Mr. Ten Eick's explanation of his *second* answer, be deemed satisfactory.

Resolved, That Mr. Ten Eick's explanation of his *third* answer, taken in connexion with his *first* answer, is satisfactory.

Resolved, That Mr. Ten Eick's explanation of his *fourth* answer, is satisfactory.

Resolved, That the several answers and explanations given by Mr. Ten Eick, be referred to the same Committee who drafted the questions. Dr. Cannon was excused from serving on the Committee, and Mr. De Witt was added to it.

The Committee reported, and their report was adopted, and is as follows:

The Committee to whom were referred the questions, answers, and explanations, in the case of the Rev. Conrad Ten Eick, offer the following resolutions to be adopted by the General Synod:

Whereas, The General Synod has condemned the opinions of the Rev. Conrad Ten Eick, on the subject of the atonement, as contained in his printed defence—*Therefore resolved*, That Mr. Ten Eick has acted unadvisedly and imprudently, in publishing and circulating said defence, and has merited, and does hereby receive the reproof of this house.

Resolved also, That it be enjoined upon Mr. Ten Eick, henceforth to declare himself on the subject of the atonement, conformably to the views expressed by the General Synod on this occasion.

All which is respectfully submitted.

SOLOMON FRÆLIGH, *Chairman.*

Against the decisions contained in the preceding report, the following protest was entered:

The undersigned solemnly protest against the above decision, in the case of the Rev. C. Ten Eick, because, in our opinion, he has not, not even in his answers and explanations, disavowed the erroneous doctrines on the subject of the atonement, advanced and maintained in his printed defence; and also because, in our opinion, his conduct in propogating error, merits more than mere reproof from this Body, while the Rev. Messrs. Jones and Amerman are continued under suspension for refusing to have Classical intercourse with the Rev. C. Ten Eick, and those who have sided with him, in approving his erroneous doctrines.

R. A. WESTERVELT,
CORNELUS T. DEMAREST,
FREDERIC G. BERRENGER,
GLOUDY VAN DEUSEN,
PETER LOUCKS.

The *third* article in the report of the Committee on the minutes of the Particular Synod of Albany respecting the case of the Rev. H. V. Wyckoff, was referred to the same Committee to whom was referred the application for a division of the Classis of Montgomery. (See their report under article 10th.)

In relation to the last article of the above mentioned report, respecting the case of the Rev. S. Palmer,

Resolved, That the Commissioners of the Classis of Montgomery have leave to withdraw their application for a re-hearing, in the case of Sylvanus Palmer.

ARTICLE IX.

Grievances.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE X.

Church Government.

The following communication, was received by Synod, and referred to a special Committee, consisting of the Rev. Dr. Milledoler, and Messrs. Labagh, and Eltinge ; and the Elders, Messrs. Cowan and Dubois.

To the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church.

The undersigned, beg leave to represent, that as in their conscientious opposition to the Rev. C. Ten Eick, and to the majority of the Classis of Montgomery, we have deviated from ecclesiastical order, which deviation we do hereby confess; a deviation not at all arising from want of respect for the General Synod, or the constituted authority of the Reformed Dutch Church: we humbly pray, that the suspension of those of us, who are suspended, may be removed. And, further, as we are satisfied, and it must appear evident to our brethren from the nature of things, that the association of the minority in the Classis of Montgomery, with the majority, will not be for edification: we pray, this General Synod, to set apart said minority, by the name and style of the Classis of with power to organize themselves as such.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN C. TOLL,
HENRY V. WYCKOFF,
NICH. JONES,
SYLVANUS PALMER,
ALBERT AMERMAN,
PETER LOUCKS,
GLOUDY VAN DEUSEN.

The Committee, to whom the above communication was referred, reported—and their report was adopted, and is as follows:—

The Committee, appointed to consider a communication made to General Synod, by certain Ministers and Elders of the Classis of Montgomery, beg leave to report:—

That they have carefully attended to the matter contained in said communication; and, for the preservation of the peace, and advancement of the prosperity of the Churches of that Classis, do earnestly recommend to General Synod, the adoption of the following Resolutions, namely:—

Resolved. 1. That the Rev. Messrs. Wyckoff, Jones, and Amerman, be, and they hereby are directed to return to the Classis of Montgomery, and to make satisfaction to said Classis, in the following words, viz:—

In our conscientious opposition, to the majority of the Classis of Montgomery, we have used rash expressions, and have deviated from ecclesiastical order, which expressions and deviation, we confess and regret.

2. That upon such acknowledgment, and return to their duty, the Classis of Montgomery, be, and they hereby are directed, to restore them to their former good standing.

3. That on the return and restoration of said Ministers, the Particular Synod of Albany, be, and they hereby are directed, to organize into a new Classis, the following Ministers and Churches, namely:—*

*MINISTERS.	CHURCHES.
Henry V. Wyckoff, without a charge. -	
Nicholas Jones, Pastor of - - -	Sharon and Rhinebeck.
Albert Amerman, Pastor of - - -	Johns-Town and Mayfield.
John C. Toll, Pastor of - - -	Westerlo and Middletown.
Sylvanus Palmer, Pastor of - - -	Fonda's-bush and Albany-bush.
Abraham Brokaw, Pastor of - - -	The Church at Ovid.
Vacant - - - - - -	2nd Church of Charles Town.

To be known by the name and style of the Classis of

All which is respectfully submitted.

PHILIP MILLEDOLER, *Chairman.*

It was also *Resolved*, That in case the above named suspended Ministers, shall not forthwith desist from preaching, and other ministerial duties, then the contemplated restoration shall not take place.

ARTICLE XI.

Doctrines and Morals.

The following Resolutions were adopted :—

Resolved, That the word of God, and the standards of this Church, teach us, that the Lord Jesus Christ, died as an atoning sacrifice, only for those whom the Father has given him; for whom, in the divine love and wisdom, he became the substituted victim.

Resolved, That Mr. Conrad Ten Eick's former opinions, on the subject of the atonement, as contained in his printed defence, meet our decided disapprobation.

The following preamble and resolution were also adopted :—

Whereas, it has been repeatedly alleged, on the floor of this Synod, that some of its members have denied the infinite value and sufficiency of the death of Jesus Christ, to expiate the sins of the whole world; and whereas, the expression of the sense of Synod on this subject, at this time is deemed important. Therefore,

Resolved, That it is the sense of this house, that the death of Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice and satisfaction, is of infinite worth and value, abundantly sufficient to expiate the sins of the whole world ; but, that this infinite value, and dignity of the death of Jesus Christ, is solely derived from the considerations mentioned in the fourth article, under the second head of doctrine, in the Cannons, and from none other.

ARTICLE XII.

Customs and Usages.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIII.

Schools, and Christian Education.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIV.

Queens College.

A Committee of the Trustees of Queens College made the following communication, which was referred to the same Committee to whom was referred the report of the Board of Corporation.

(See their report under the article " Board of Corporation.")

The undersigned, a Committee appointed by the Board of Trustees of Queens College in New-Jersey, to lay before the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, certain communications, on the subject of the differences existing between the Board of Corporation of the General Synod, and the Board of Trustees, beg leave, respectfully to submit to the General Synod, the following statement:

That the Board of Trustees of Queens College, desirous of evincing to the Board of Corporation, appointed by General Synod, their desire to avoid litigation, and to satisfy them and the Synod, that the Trustees had no other object in view, than the prosperity of the Church, and faithfully to discharge the obligations they were under to those, who had committed to their trust the funds now in their hands, did, at a meeting of the Board held in New-Brunswick, on the twenty-fifth day of September, make the following Resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the funds in the hands of the Board of Trustees belonging to the Professoral Fund, be loaned by this Board to the Board of Corporation of the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church, on the condition that the Board of Corporation execute to this Board an instrument of writing, binding themselves to appropriate the proceeds of the said fund according to the agreement between this Board and General Synod, in the year 1807, for the support of the Theological Seminary in the City of New-Brunswick, in the State of New-Jersey—and in case the Theological School be removed from the City of New-Brunswick, then, and in such case, the said Board of Corporation shall refund the principal so placed in their hands. And further, the monies loaned to individuals, where they are considered safe, and the interest punctually paid, shall not be called in within less than three years; and upon further condition, that an amicable arrangement can be

effected on the subject of the two thousand one hundred and twelve dollars and fifty-seven cents they claim from this Board;" thus giving to the General Synod, not only the control of the interest of the Theological Fund, but actually committing to them the principal; and which they had fondly hoped would have been altogether satisfactory to the Board of Corporation. But what was their astonishment, when they were informed by the Board of Corporation, that the offer of transfer was accompanied with certain conditions, which could not be acceded to.

Permit us to examine and explain the conditions contained in this offer of transfer, made in good faith, and with a sincere desire to do away existing differences and collisions. The Committee are induced to believe, that the most objectionable of the conditions contained in the Resolution referred to, is the one requiring that the principal shall be returned, whenever the Synod shall cease to apply the interest arising therefrom to the support of a Theological Professor in New-Brunswick—And if the Committee are right in this conclusion, it brings the differences existing between the Board of Trustees and the Synod to a point, upon which the Committee think it their duty to be plain and explicit, that the Synod may fully understand the motives by which the Board of Trustees are actuated.

The Synod had for many years been endeavouring to raise money for the purpose of establishing a Theological Seminary for the education of a faithful and able ministry in the Dutch Church, all of which proved abortive—when in the year 1807, the Trustees proposed to the Synod, to unite the Theological with the Literary Institution—to locate the Theological Seminary at New-Brunswick—and that the monies raised *by the Trustees*, in the State of New-York, should be a fund exclusively appropriated to the support of a Theological Professorship in the College, and to the assistance of poor and pious young men. All of which was agreed to, on the part of Synod, and the Theological Seminary was located at New-Brunswick, as appears by the covenant entered into between the Synod and Board of Trustees.

In pursuance of this agreement, the Trustees proceeded in making collections, to raise a fund in the State of New-York, for the support of a Theological Professor *in New-Brunswick*, and they so far succeeded, that their success, together with the efforts of Synod,

awakened the attention of the Churches generally; and the Synod are now reaping the harvest of the labours of the Trustees.

The Church is now in the possession of a Theological Seminary, that has already sent out many able young men, well rooted and grounded in the doctrines of our holy religion, and which promises more extensive blessings to the Church at large: the Great Head of the Church has indeed blessed this School of the Prophets, for which our hearts ought to be filled with gratitude, and urges us to greater diligence in so good a work.

Here, then, we have the conditions, upon which the Trustees did undertake the establishment of a Theological Seminary, at New-Brunswick, under the patronage of the General Synod, in connection with the Literary Institution;—painful as it may be, it is nevertheless true; that notwithstanding the greatest efforts of the Trustees to keep it up, the Literary Institution has altogether failed; and, as we believe, principally from a prevailing opinion, that the Literary, gave no support to the Theological Seminary. The Trustees have been obliged, although reluctantly, to abandon it, and have offered the buildings, which cost upwards of thirty thousand dollars, (with the exception of one room for the accommodation of a Grammar School and the western dwelling) to General Synod, for the purposes of the Theological Seminary; and, we feel persuaded, that we may safely say, that the Trustees would willingly agree to transfer the whole building and lot to the Synod, for the purposes of a Theological Seminary, upon receiving such a sum, as would be sufficient to enable them to erect a small building for the accommodation of a Grammar School. Nay more, we feel persuaded, that the Board of Trustees would agree to unite with the Synod, in an application to the Legislature of this State, praying, that an act may be passed, authorising the Board to transfer all the funds in their hands to General Synod, on the condition that the Theological Seminary remain located at New-Brunswick.

We mention the condition, because, we believe it would be our duty, and the oath we have taken imposes upon us the obligation, to resist any attempt that may be made to wrest the funds out of our hands, except upon the conditions stated. Knowing as we do, that they were expressly given upon those conditions—and we do not hesitate to say, that any attempt to get the funds out of the possession of the Board of Trustees, and to appropriate

the proceeds elsewhere, (except it be by an amicable arrangement between them and the Synod) will be resisted by the Board, and must ultimately fail of success.

We think it our duty to be thus explicit, because we are satisfied, that the Board of Trustees have maturely considered, and made up their minds on the subject—that they cannot do otherwise, without doing violence to their own consciences.

If the General Synod shall be of opinion, that it is best to remove the Theological Seminary to some other place—we have not a word to say—the Synod are the watchmen, and we submit in silence; but in such case, the funds raised and given for a Theological Seminary, at New-Brunswick, will remain as they are, in the hands of the Board of Trustees; and, if there should be no Professor of Theology here, to claim the interest arising thereon, it will be suffered to accumulate; and may, perhaps, be very useful to some generation after us.

We also beg leave to present a copy of another resolution, entered into by the Board of Trustees, at their meeting in September last, on the subject of the balance claimed by the Board of Corporation.

" Whereas, the Board of Trustees, have expended the sum of eight thousand dollars, on the lot and college building since the year 1813, and have heretofore expended the sum of, at least, seven thousand dollars in erecting and finishing the East Wing of the College Edifice. And, whereas, they have appropriated eighteen hundred dollars, for the purchase of a Library, which said sums have been supplied by the literary fund of Queens College. And as the said Edifice and Library, have been, and are occupied for the exclusive benefit of the Theological Seminary in this place; and as the funds in the possession of the General Synod, are by the occupation of the Building and Library exonerated from a portion of annual expenditure, with which they would be otherwise charged. This Board consider the balance of two thousand two hundred and twelve dollars and fifty-seven cents, heretofore charged to the literary fund, paid, and overpaid. Therefore,

Resolved, That the Treasurer, be directed to charge the said sum, with interest thereon, to the professoral fund, and discharge the literary fund therefrom."

In relation to the lands lying in the State of New-York, conveyed to this Board, we observe, that if nothing (no estate) passed by the conveyance to the Board, nothing can be gained by a reconveyance from the Board; and, as a quit claim from the original owners cannot give title, we respectfully suggest the propriety of an application to the Legislature of New-York, authorising a direct conveyance of those lands, by the original proprietors, to the Board of Corporation.

The Committee, close this communication, in the sincere desire, that the Great Head of the Church, will direct the General Synod, to the adoption of such measures, as shall have a tendency to extend the Redeemer's kingdom, and be productive of harmony, and good will in all the Churches.

J. R. HARDENBERGH,
JOHN LUDLOW,
WM. P. DEARE, } *Committee.*

New-Brunswick, Oct. 9, 1820.

ARTICLE XV.

Professorate.

The Board of Superintendents submitted the following recommendation:

"Whereas Mr. D. Van Olinda, of approved talents and piety, wishes to prosecute his literary studies for one year, with a view of entering into the Theological College, and is not possessed of requisite means to defray his expences, the Board of Superintendents, to whom he has submitted his case, recommend him to General Synod, as a fit person to be assisted from the Van Bunschooten Fund. By order of the Board,

CORNELIUS C. CUYLER, *Clerk, pro. tem.*

Resolved, That Mr. D. Van Olinda, be recommended to the Trustees of Queens College, as a suitable person to receive assistance from the Van Bunschooten Fund, for the purpose of pursuing his literary studies for one year, as preparatory to his Theological studies.

ARTICLE XVI.

Students in Theology.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVII.

Church Visitation.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XVIII.

Prevailing Sins.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XIX.

Missions.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XX.

Widow's Fund.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXI.

Particularia.

Resolved, That the Rev. Mr. Palmer, for having expressed a contempt of the standards of the Reformed Dutch Church, by declaring, in the presence of the General Synod, that he hoped the day was not far off, when our standards will be subservient to the word of God—be called upon by the President, to offer an apology to this Synod.

Mr. Palmer being called upon, *declined* to offer any apology.

Whereupon resolved, That the seat of the Rev. Mr. Palmer be vacated, on account of his persevering contempt of the standards of this Church.

ARTICLE XXII.

Pastoral Letter.

Nothing occurred.

ARTICLE XXIII.

Synodical Archives.

ARTICLE XXIV.

Resumption and Close.

The minutes were read and approved.

Resolved, That the Stated Clerk publish 750 copies of the Minutes of this Synod, duly authenticated; and that he distribute among the Classes the number of copies directed by them.

ARTICLE XXV.

Adjournment.

Synod adjourned, to meet in the City of Albany, on the first Wednesday of June, 1821, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

JAMES S. CANNON, *President.*
CORNELIUS C. CUYLER, *Adsessor.*
JOHN GOSMAN, *Clerk.*

Official copy from the original Minutes.

JOHN KNOX, *Stated Clerk.*

Date Due

FACULTY			
[redacted]			
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